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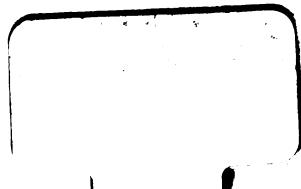
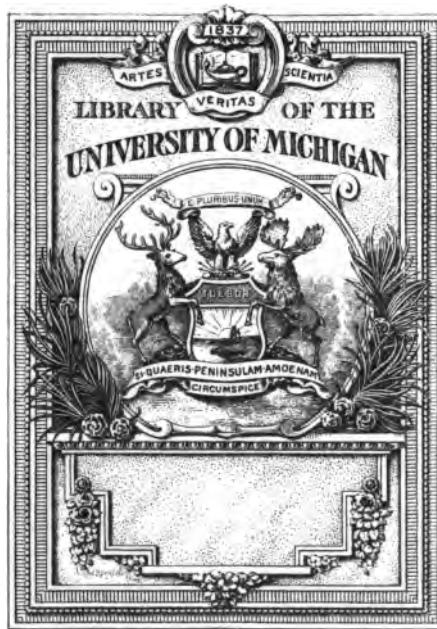
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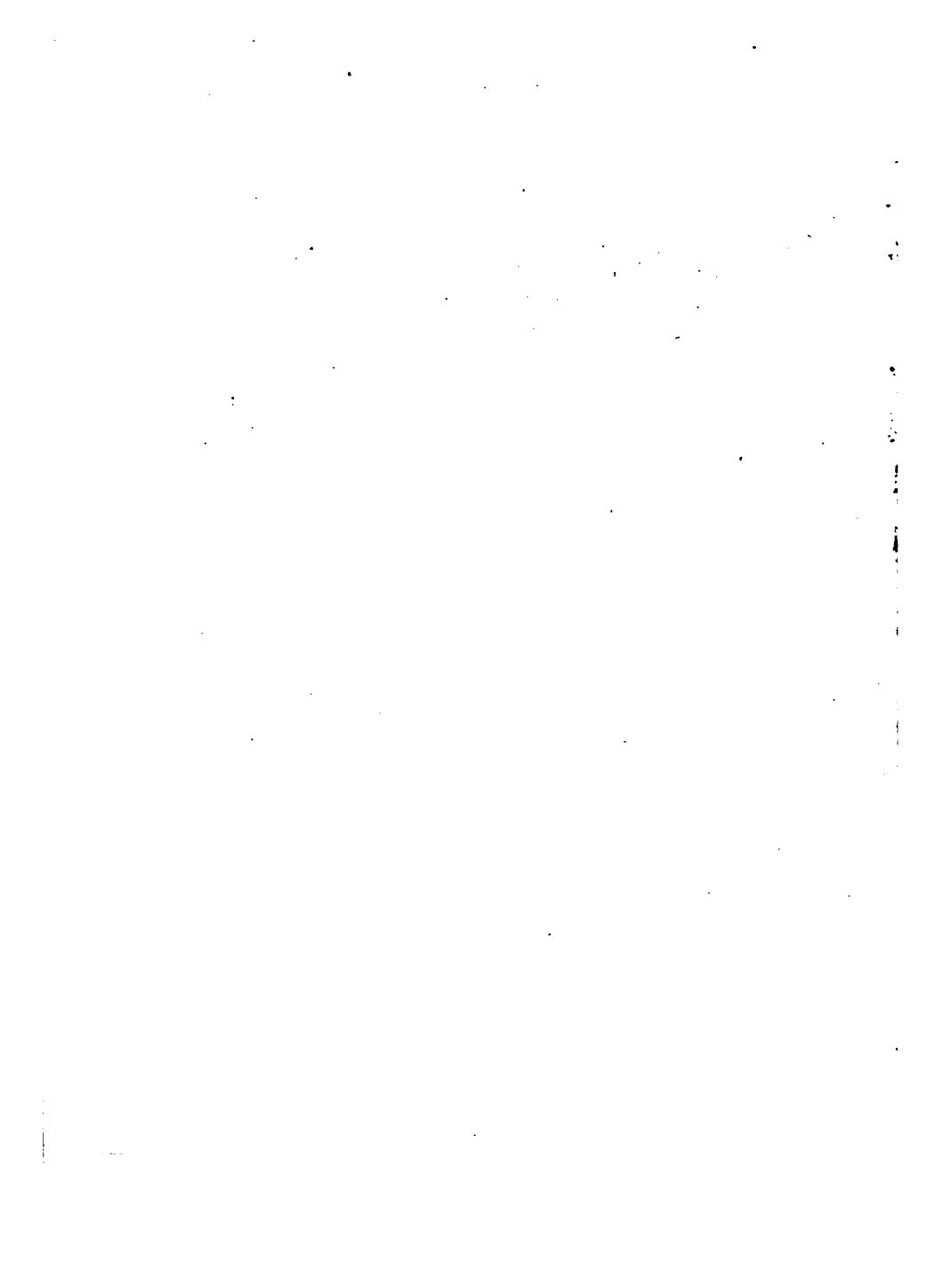
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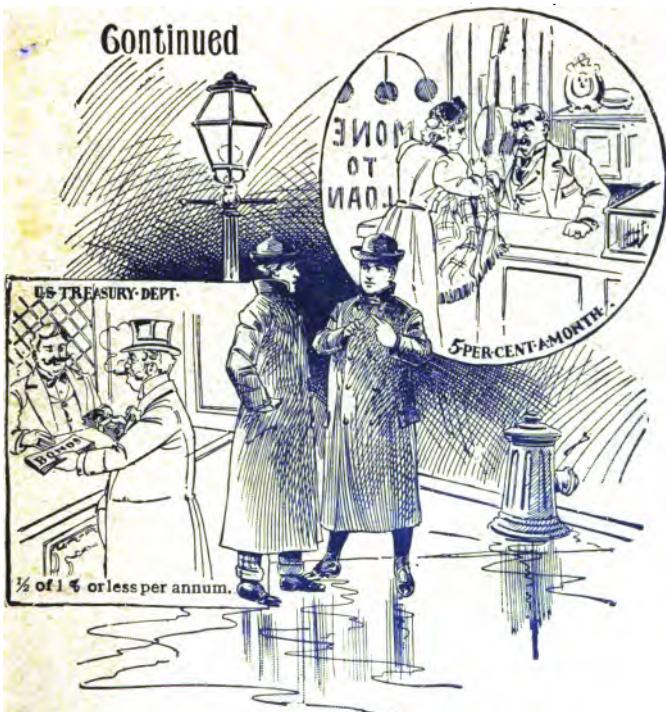


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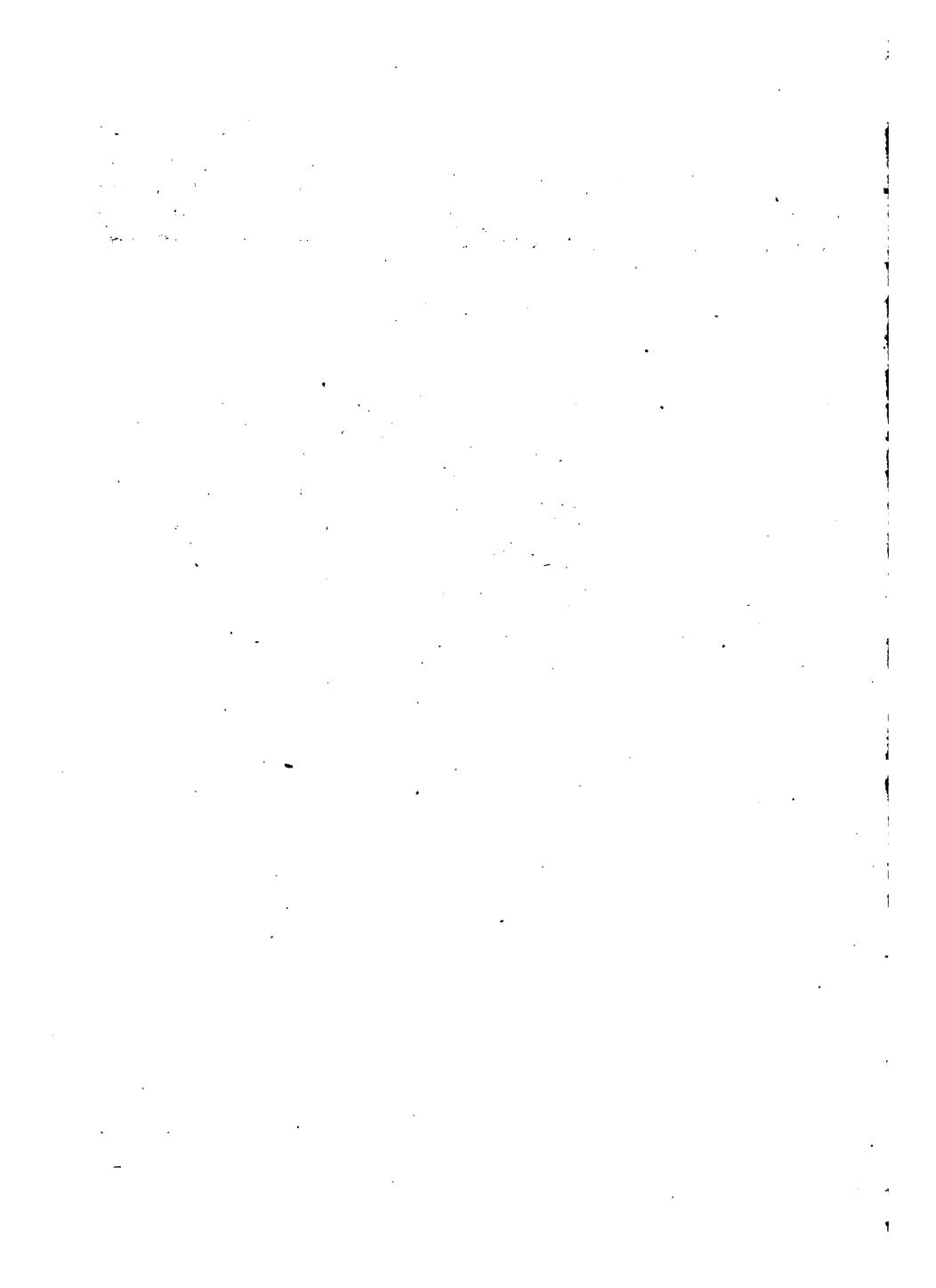


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COIN'S
FINANCIAL SCHOOL
UP TO DATE

BY

W. H. HARVEY

AUTHOR OF
"COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL," "A TALE OF TWO NATIONS,"
ETC.

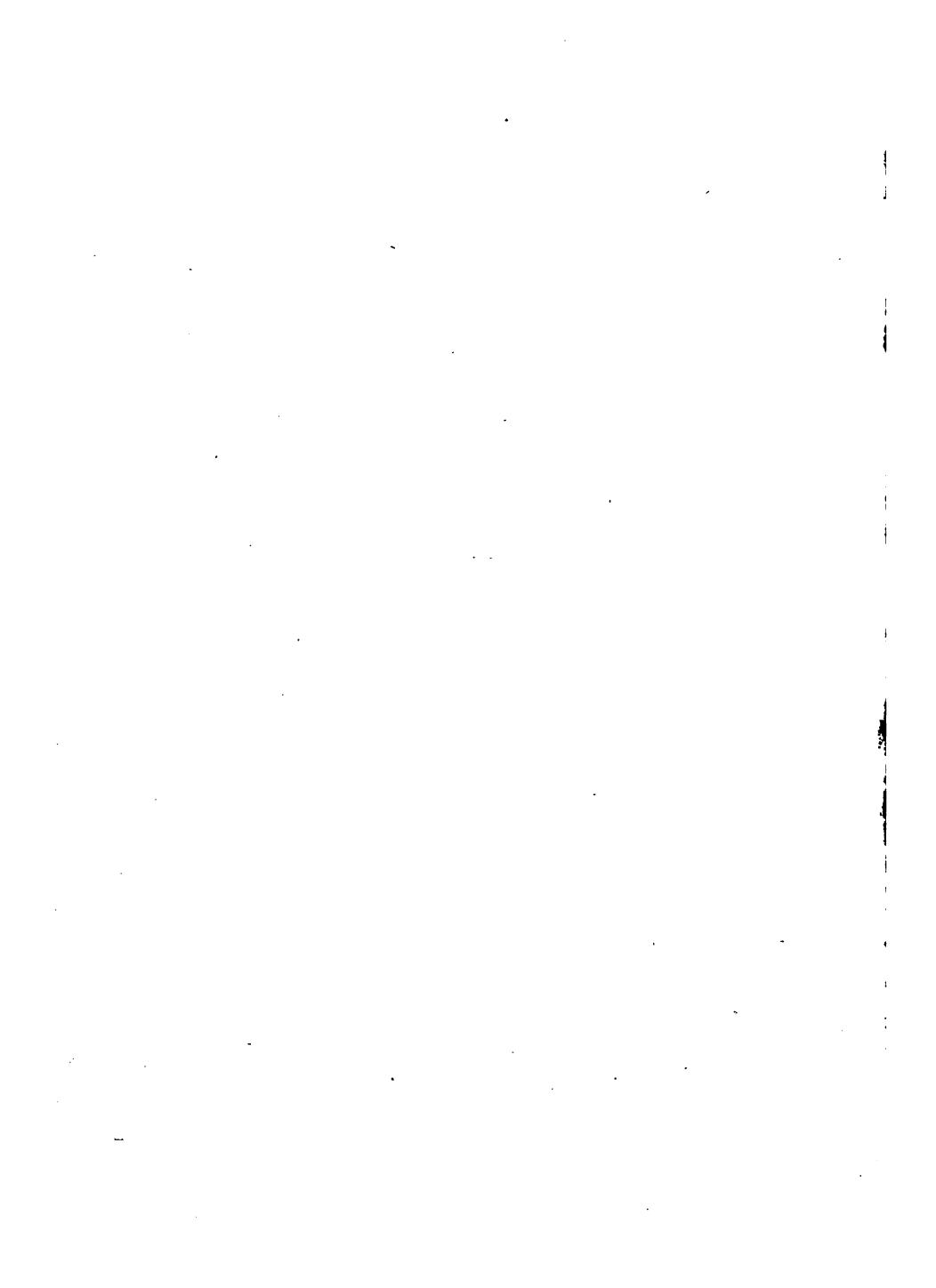
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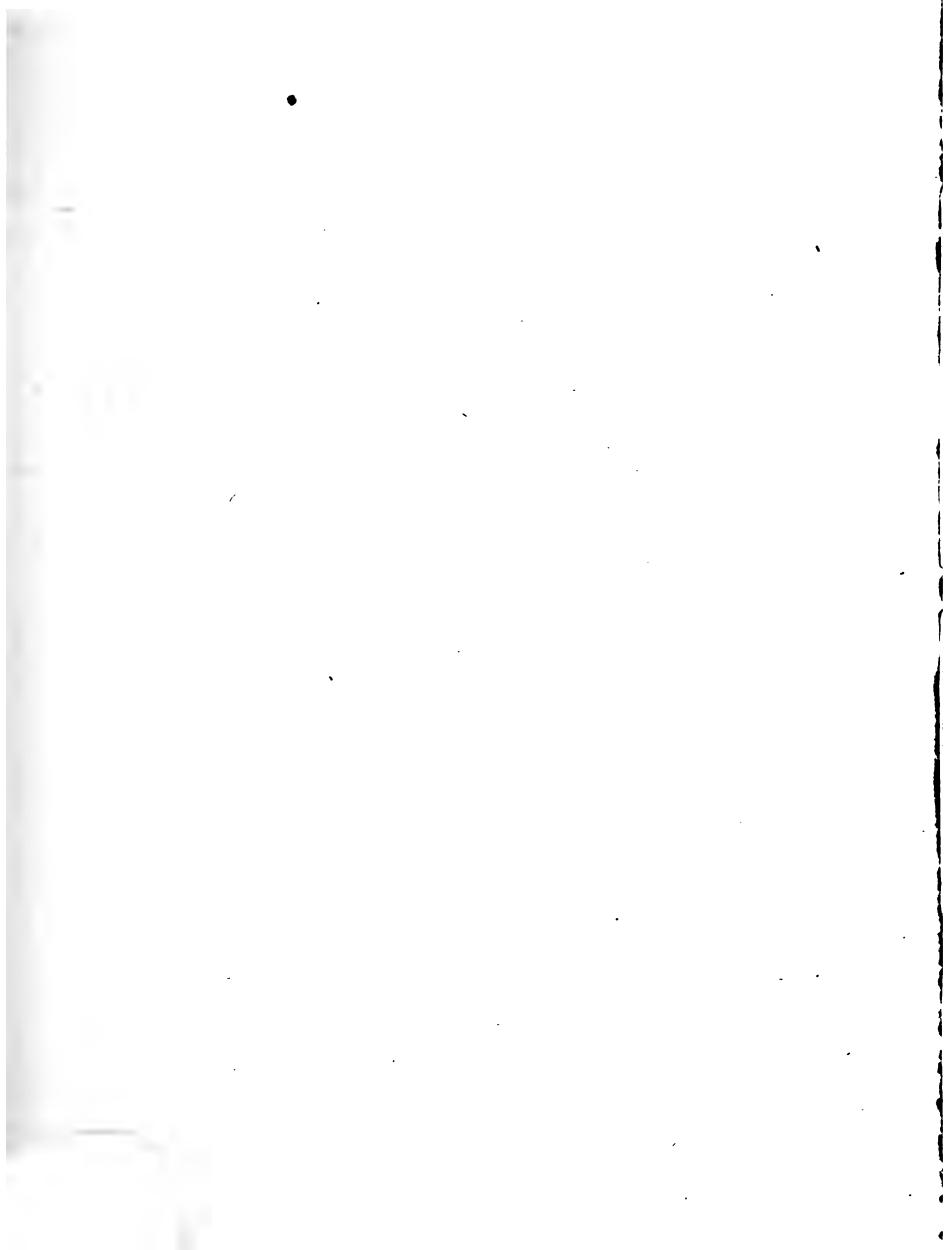
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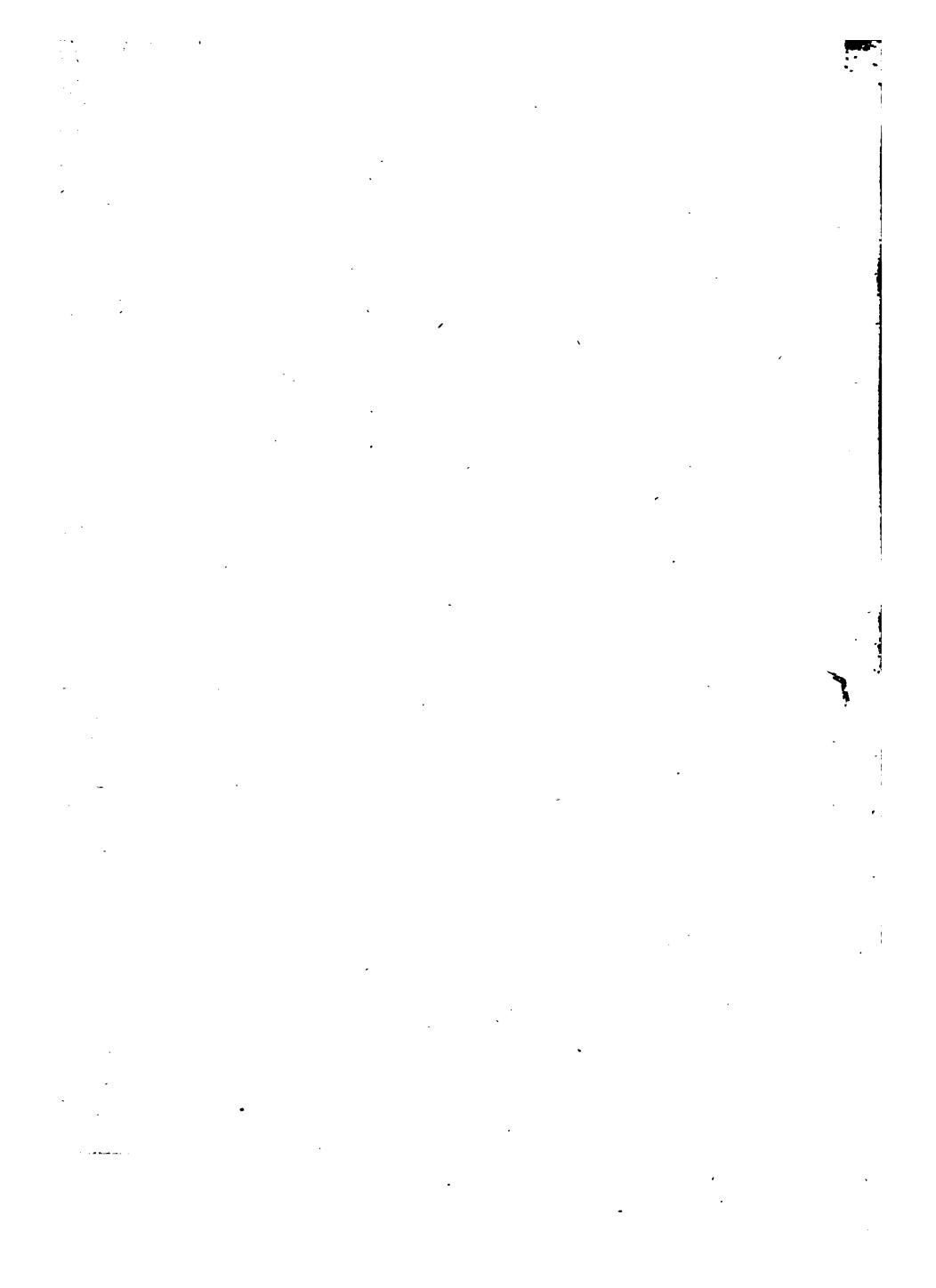


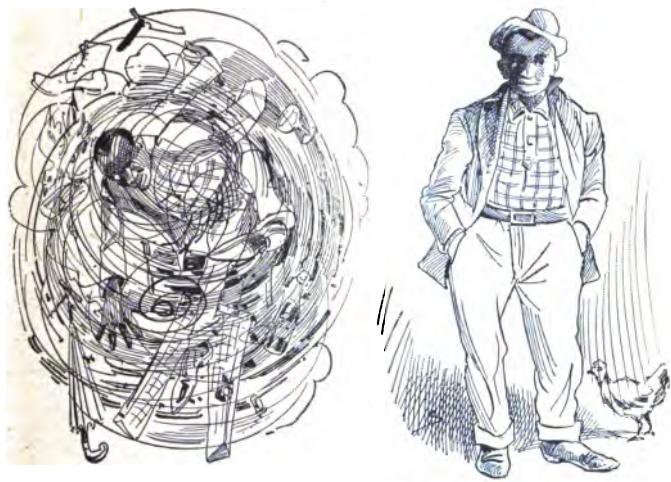
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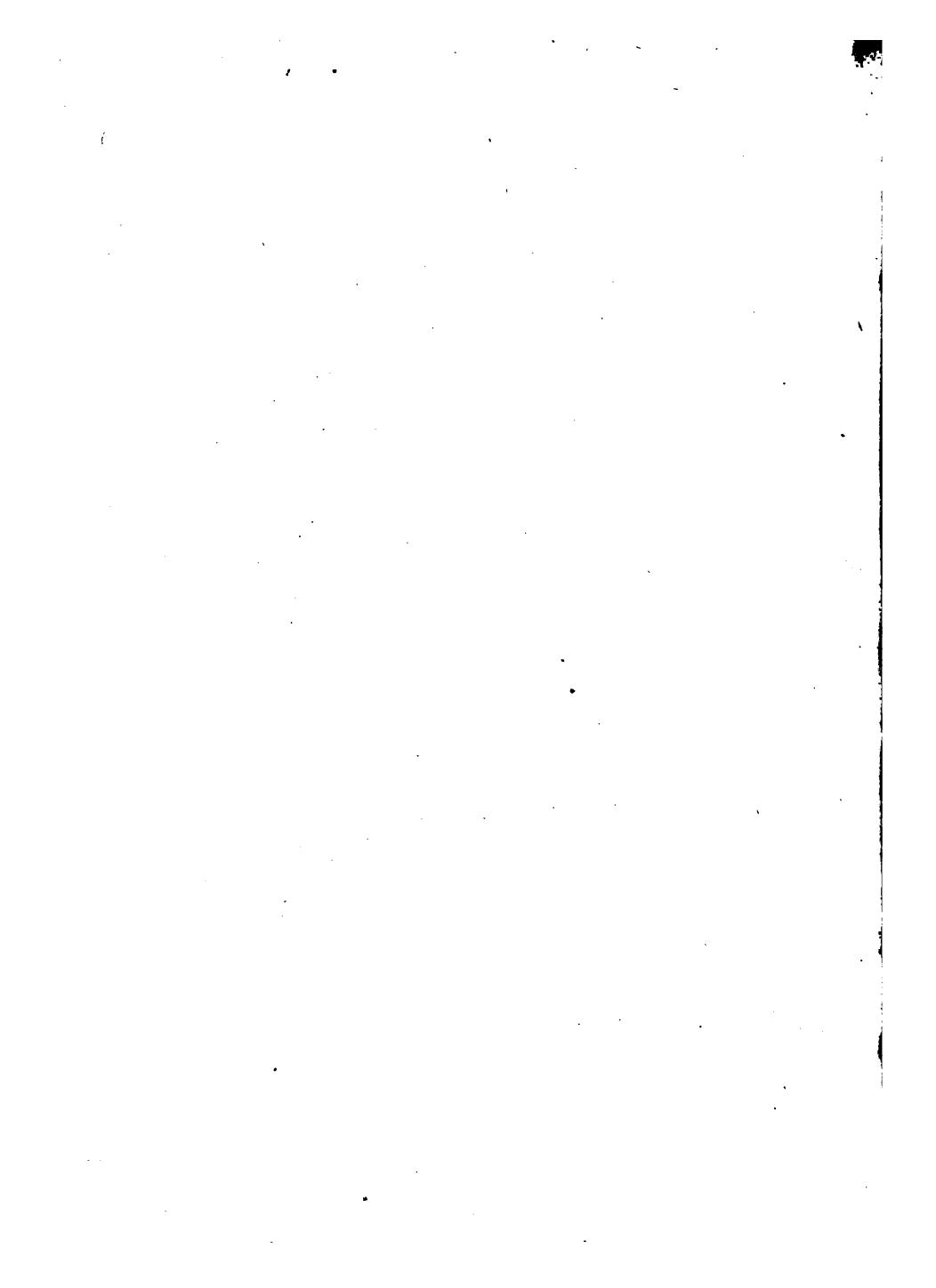
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**AN EXPERT'S COMPLEX PROPO-
SITION**

AS IT LOOKS WHEN EXPLAINED
BY COIN.



PREFACE.

At the close of "COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL" the lectures therein delivered were at once published, and appeared as the June number, 1894, of our Financial Series. The popular reception of the "School," unprecedented in the history of literature, has aroused an interest in the subsequent history of COIN, the little financier. In these pages his acts and utterances since his "School" was taught in Chicago, are chronicled, bringing the subject discussed down to date.

This volume is an answer to COIN's critics, contains new and startling information, and together with the "School" makes a complete treatise upon the subject of money. As we go to press with this book, "COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL" is selling at the rate of over 5,000 copies per day.

All of the statistics used herein and those in "COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL" were copied and carefully proof-read from the official documents of the government. Since the "School" was published the authorities at Washington have issued revised editions of these same books and have changed many of the figures, but more often in favor of COIN's contentions than against them. This is the case in the amount of silver COIN reported to have been coined prior to 1873. The old report

PREFACE

from which COIN read in his School in May, 1894, gave it at \$105,000,000, while the new report, revised to August 1, 1894, gives it at \$143,000,000. COIN knew what the official figures should be, but was compelled perforce to use the official figures as then given. Our readers can rely implicitly upon figures as reported in books of which Mr. W. H. Harvey is the author, and all attempts to assail them are either from lack of information or malicious.

COIN will keep up with his critics from time to time in the future numbers of our series; in the meantime nothing probably that he has ever written will be read with more interest and profit than the present volume.

THE PUBLISHERS.

CHAPTER I.

THE RECEPTION.

The office and corridors of the Palmer House, at which COIN was stopping, were so crowded the afternoon and evening of the day the lectures closed, by people anxious to see him, he was prevailed upon to give a reception, which he did the following Tuesday; and for hours the people filed through the parlors and shook the little statesman by the hand.

The reception was at times interrupted by distinguished men who desired to ask a question, and when this occurred, those near him would hear the reply, and Mr. Harry Bunting, a shorthand reporter of the *City Press*, was at the table in the room taking down what was said.

These questions and the answers to them afforded a variety of information. The first to ask a question was Senator S. M. Cullom of Illinois.

AMERICAN COINAGE PROPOSITION.

Senator Cullom wanted to know what the little financier thought of the American coinage proposition: "To throw the mints of the United States open to the free coinage of silver produced in the United States only."

COIN replied: "To restate your proposition, Senator, it is to leave the mints of the United States open to the free coinage of the gold of the world, and to open them to the free coinage of the silver of this government only."

Such a policy is good as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough to furnish a remedy. Such a policy leaves us at the mercy of gold standard countries in the settlement of balances with them. When the mints of this country, a powerful dominating government like this, are open to the free coinage of the silver of the world, at a ratio of, say 16 to 1, then the owner of silver bullion in a foreign country will not exchange his silver for gold at a cheaper ratio than he can get for it in the United States, less the cost of expressage or freight—in other words, what is known as the cost of exchange. In exchange for gold, he will therefore demand and receive from his home market the ratio we establish. Thus, to throw open our mints to the silver of the world fixes the exchangeable value of the two metals the world over.

"The narrower, or 'American product' policy, would drive away from us the trade of all silver-using nations whose silver is denied admission to our country. Such a policy would leave gold at a premium over silver, force us to pay gold in settlement with all gold standard countries, and alienate all silver-using countries



MR. C. S. COLLINS.

from us, while England would roam the commercial world over, viewing with satisfaction our isolated policy. This, too, is a larger and broader question. The debts in this country have been made payable in gold; it has been so written in most of the bonds and notes. Foreigners hold our securities for more than \$5,000,000,000, and our home creditors hold the balance. To establish a parity between the two metals enables us to exchange silver for gold, 16 to 1, and thus assists us to pay these debts. To coin the American product will not restore a parity or furnish relief. Absolute free coinage, as outlined in my lecture Saturday, forces a parity. The 'American product' proposition leaves us still shackled to the English policy, with our debts in their hands payable in gold at a premium over silver.

"We are," he continued, "the producers of silver, and to export it at a higher exchangeable value with gold and other commodities means more wealth to flow to us. The broad policy is for the United States to force the world, by her example and influence, to bimetallism, which is, as we have seen, easily in our power to do. We must put forth a counter influence to the gold standard influence of England, and once exerted, that influence is stronger than hers."

THE BANKERS' PLAN.

Mr. C. S. Collins, a prominent bimetallist of Little Rock, Ark., said the bankers were agitating a proposition that, if made a law, would allow the banks to issue paper money based on their credits, and thereby increase the volume of money very largely. It was, he said, what is commonly known as the plan of the Bankers' convention. He wanted to know of the little financier if in his judgment it would afford relief.

"No," was the reply. "Such plan does not increase the stock of primary money—the measure of values—and would leave us a prey to the low prices that now exist. It is another proposition to deceive the people and divert their minds from the true remedy. *Our* proposition should be to *stand fast and refuse all compromises*. To enlarge the privileges the banks now have, is to place the people in a condition of more hopeless bondage to the money power. The bankers as a rule are a patriotic class of men, but they are controlled by a central influence in London and New York, the effect of which is fatal to the prosperity of the country."

RELATIVE QUANTITY OF THE METALS.

Mr. W. Y. Miles, of Columbus, Ohio, a large, fine-looking, wholesale merchant of that city, and a great admirer of Senator Sherman, shook hands with the little statesman, and said that "Senator Sherman claimed that the decline in the value of silver bullion was not on account of demonetization, but by reason of the large overproduction of silver as compared with gold, beginning with and since 1873, and that Senator Sherman's statement to that effect had been



MR. W. Y. MILES.

recently published through the Associated Press in all the daily papers. Is not this overproduction of silver true?" concluded Mr. Miles. And as he said this the expression on his face was that of one well pleased with himself and the views he entertained, which were those of the gold monometallist.

The people in line, temporarily blocked by this interruption, pressed forward, and as many as could gathered near to hear the reply. It was true that Senator Sherman had made the statement, and from its recent publication it was then fresh in the minds of all present. The friends of silver listening were over-anxious as to the reply the little bimetallist would make. Could he settle effectually and forever a statement so damaging from such a high authority?

The fact that he had, both on the first and second days of his lecture, given figures from the table of Mullah, the London Statistician, disproving this statement, was not known to Mr. Miles, and for the moment was not remembered by many present, but it was an English authority, and about its authenticity there might be some doubt, and probably would be, since the statement made by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Miles' confidence in Senator Sherman, like that of thousands of other American citizens, was unbounded, and he had no doubt of the truth of the statement made by the Ohio Senator.

He expected an evasive reply.

"Mr. Miles," said COIN, "I here hand you a copy of the third edition of my Hand Book, and open it for you at page 26. That page is a copy, figure for figure, from a page in the report of the Director of the Mint of the Treasury Department of the United States. It gives the production of the gold and silver of the *world* for

100 years—1792 to 1892. It shows that for the first 50 years of this century the production of silver was largely in excess of gold. If you will compute the percentage, you will find that it is 78 per cent of silver over gold, and yet there was no trouble to maintain the commercial parity between the two metals during that period. Now, replying direct to Senator Sherman's statement, I call your attention to the year 1873. For that year it shows gold \$96,200,000, silver \$81,800,000. For 1874, gold \$90,750,000, silver \$71,500,000. For 1875, gold \$97,500,000, silver \$80,500,000. These are the figures of the United States treasury department, Mr. Miles," said the little fellow, looking up into the face of the handsome Ohio merchant. And then he continued : " For 1876, gold \$103,700,000, silver \$87,600,-000. For 1877, gold \$114,000,000, silver \$81,000,000. For 1878, gold \$119,000,000, silver \$95,000,000." Here COIN handed him the book and told him to take it home with him and think over Senator Sherman's statement, and then added : " You will find by examining a more recent statement of the treasury department that extends this table down to the present, that while *during the first fifty years of this century the world produced 78 per cent more silver than gold, that during the last twenty-one years the production of silver over gold has been less than 5 per cent.* Write to the treasury department for this table," and as COIN said this he looked around at the people listening ; then he added : " I want to see the treasury department flooded with letters for this information, and I want to see them furnish it ; they are your servants and should do so, and with this official table in the possession of the people, I want them to inquire into the motive of Senator Sherman and others, for making this and similar deceptive statements to the public."

And Mr. Miles and the line of callers passed on.

The page in Coin's Hand Book referred to by COIN
and shown to Mr. Myles, is as follows:

Production of Gold and Silver in the World, 1792-1892.

CALENDAR YEARS.	GOLD.	SILVER (Coin- ing Value).	TOTAL.
1792-1800 . . .	\$106,407,000	\$328,860,000	\$435,267,000
1801-1810 . . .	118,152,000	371,677,000	489,829,000
1811-1820 . . .	76,063,000	224,786,000	300,849,000
1821-1830 . . .	94,479,000	191,444,000	285,923,000
1831-1840 . . .	134,841,000	274,930,000	409,771,000
1841-1848 . . .	291,144,000	259,520,000	550,664,000
1849 . . .	27,100,000	39,000,000	66,100,000
1850 . . .	44,450,000	39,000,000	83,450,000
1851 . . .	67,600,000	40,000,000	107,600,000
1852 . . .	132,750,000	40,600,000	173,350,000
1853 . . .	155,450,000	40,600,000	196,050,000
1854 . . .	127,450,000	40,600,000	168,050,000
1855 . . .	135,075,000	40,600,000	175,675,000
1856 . . .	147,600,000	40,650,000	188,250,000
1857 . . .	133,275,000	40,650,000	173,925,000
1858 . . .	184,650,000	40,650,000	185,300,000
1859 . . .	124,850,000	40,750,000	165,600,000
1860 . . .	119,250,000	40,800,000	160,050,000
1861 . . .	113,800,000	44,700,000	158,500,000
1862 . . .	107,750,000	45,200,000	152,950,000
1863 . . .	100,950,000	49,200,000	156,150,000
1864 . . .	113,000,000	51,700,000	164,700,000
1865 . . .	120,200,000	51,950,000	172,150,000
1866 . . .	121,100,000	50,750,000	171,850,000
1867 . . .	104,025,000	54,225,000	158,250,000
1868 . . .	109,725,000	50,225,000	159,950,000
1869 . . .	106,225,000	47,500,000	153,725,000
1870 . . .	106,850,000	51,575,000	158,425,000
1871 . . .	107,000,000	61,050,000	168,050,000
1872 . . .	99,600,000	66,250,000	164,850,000
1873 . . .	96,200,000	81,800,000	178,000,000
1874 . . .	90,750,000	71,500,000	162,250,000
1875 . . .	97,500,000	80,500,000	178,000,000
1876 . . .	103,700,000	87,600,000	191,300,000
1877 . . .	114,000,000	81,000,000	195,000,000
1878 . . .	119,000,000	95,000,000	214,000,000
1879 . . .	109,000,000	96,000,000	205,000,000
1880 . . .	106,500,000	96,700,000	203,200,000
1881 . . .	103,000,000	92,000,000	205,000,000
1882 . . .	102,000,000	111,800,000	213,800,000
1883 . . .	95,400,000	115,300,000	210,700,000
1884 . . .	101,700,000	105,500,000	207,200,000
1885 . . .	108,400,000	118,500,000	226,900,000
1886 . . .	106,000,000	120,600,000	226,600,000
1887 . . .	105,775,000	124,281,000	230,056,000
1888 . . .	110,197,000	140,706,000	250,903,000
1889 . . .	123,489,000	162,159,000	285,648,000
1890 . . .	113,150,000	172,235,000	285,385,000
1891 . . .	120,519,000	186,733,000	307,252,000
1892 . . .	130,817,000	196,605,000	327,422,000
Total . . .	\$5,633,908,000	\$5,104,961,000	\$10,738,869,00

TREASURY DEPT., BUREAU OF THE MINT, Aug. 16, 1894.

SILVER AND WHEAT.

The next person to interrupt the reception was Mr. W. P. Halliday, of Cairo, Ill. He put this question to COIN:

"Does the demonetization of silver give England any special advantage over us in depressing the price of our wheat?"

"Yes," replied the little financier. "The people of India have been accustomed to receive about \$1.25 per bushel for their wheat." As he said this he paused a moment and took out his purse, and, taking a silver dollar and a silver quarter therefrom, balanced the two on the ends of his thumb and fingers and continued:

"For this quantity of silver per bushel the farmers of India sell their wheat. They express it in rupees, but the amount—the quantity—is about this \$1.25. This is what they want for their wheat. It is the same price the farmers of this country want, but cannot get. It is the price that once made happy and contented and prosperous, the farmers of the United States. The people of England buy this much silver from us," and



MR. W. P. HALLIDAY.

COIN continued to hold up the \$1.25, "for about 60 cents and ship it to India, where it is coined into rupees, and made the equivalent of this \$1.25, and with what cost the Englishman 60 cents he buys a bushel of Indian wheat. Hence, we must sell our wheat at 60 cents on a gold basis to compete with India wheat at \$1.25 in silver. If an ounce of our silver could be purchased for 25 cents, then an English broker could take that ounce of silver which cost him 25 cents and with it buy a bushel of wheat in India; so that if we produce more wheat than we consume (which is the case) we would have to sell it at 25 cents on a gold standard to compete with India, should silver continue to decline and reach that figure."

As COIN concluded his answer to Mr. Halliday some one in the crowd was heard to say, "Another point cinched; a blind mule could see that."

The people who in the meantime had filled the parlor, now began to move on and the hand-shaking continued for about ten minutes, when a man expressing great individuality of character in his face took the little statesman by the hand with no intention of hurrying on.

It was Mr. David Day, of Durango, Colorado. Mr. Day is the editor and proprietor of the *Democrat* of that city, and in prior years had become famous as the editor of the *Solid Muldoon* of Ouray, Colorado.

SILVER NOT LEGAL TENDER.

"I see," said Mr. Day, "that what you are saying is being taken down for publication, and I want you to explain silver's position in our currency system as legal tender money. Is it legal tender money, or is it not? And, if so, to what extent?" concluded Mr. Day.

A boy, by the name of Fred Wendling, who with his

father, was standing next to Mr. Day, was now looking at COIN in great admiration and wanted to know of his father what "legal tender" meant?

COIN heard the boy, and turning, took him by the hand and said, "Legal tender money, my boy, is any money of the government that you can legally tender to a person you owe and which he is compelled by law to accept in payment of the debt. Come to my room when this is over," added COIN, "and see me. The boys will soon have to look after this government and we must get ready."

Then turning to Mr. Day, he said:

"The act of 1873 destroyed silver as legal tender money except to the amount of \$5. The Bland-Allison act of 1878 restored the legal tender character of the silver dollar, *except where otherwise provided in the contract.*

"The Bland-Allison act of 1878, while presumably restoring the legal tender character of the silver dollar, did not do so. No money can be effective as *legal tender money*, when the power is given to the individual citizen to nullify the act of Congress, and this the Bland-Allison act did.



MR. DAVID DAY.

It says silver dollars are legal tender, "*except when otherwise provided in the contract.*" This gave creditors the right to specify in their bonds and notes that gold was the only kind of money they would accept, and this act of 1878 thus sanctions these gold bonds and notes. Hence, since then, nearly all bonds and notes have been taken payable in gold. A debtor has little to say as to what kind of note he will sign when borrowing money. The creditor dictates that, and the debtor is usually in no position to object. The government has farmed out to the banks and money lenders the right to dictate what shall be legal tender money.

"But do not let this," continued COIN, "cause you to lose sight of the fact that the central point of attack on monometallism is that gold alone is redemp-tion money." He here turned and dictated carefully to the stenographer. "The demonetization of silver consisted principally in the closing of the mints to its free and unlimited coinage. As the unit, silver controlled gold and was the basic principle of our bi-metallic system. The closing of the mints to silver by shutting



FRED WENDLING.

off the unlimited demand for it as money, and continuing the unlimited demand for gold, gave us monometallism and destroyed bimetallism. Greenbacks are legal tender; and it makes little difference whether the government makes legal tender money printed on paper or silver, so long as it is all redeemable in gold, we will be on a gold basis. So long as the present disastrous monetary system is pursued, the exchangeable value of gold with other property will give to its credit representatives, paper, silver, copper and nickel money, the same purchasing power as the gold in which they are redeemable. If wheat were made primary money and each bushel was a unit or dollar, no amount of wheat certificates, redeemable at the elevators in wheat, whether written on paper or metal would give a greater exchangeable value to wheat, or the property for which it would be exchanged. Apply this principle to gold and you have our present currency system in a nutshell. All attempts to force silver as redemption money, while depressing its commercial value by refusing it free coinage at the mints, will confound its friends, and result in financial confusion.

"What we need is to enlarge the quantity of our primary money by opening our mints to the free coinage of silver, the same as gold now enjoys, restoring $371\frac{1}{4}$ grains of pure, or $412\frac{1}{2}$ grains of standard silver as the unit or *dollar*, fixing a ratio to this at which gold may be coined into money, and making both full legal tender money."

AN EXPENSIVE UNIT.

Next came Mr. James H. Ferris, editor of the Joliet (Ill.) *News*, who, with a smile on his handsome face, shook the little fellow cordially by the hand and wanted

to know "what is the most expensive thing that could be selected to make the *unit?*"



"The Earth," replied COIN, with a smile.

"That is what they want," said Mr. Ferris as he passed on.

COIN AND THE BANKER.

The reception continued without any material interruption for about fifteen minutes, when Mr. E. S. Lacey, President of the Bankers' National Bank, of Chicago, and ex-comptroller of the Treasury said to the little host:

"We admit there has been a great decline in the price of property, but there has also been a proportionate decline in the interest we money men receive for the use of our money, so that we suffer as much as others. Don't you think so?"

Mr. Lacey had not attended the course of lectures, or he would not have asked this question. If he had he would have readily anticipated the answer he would get, but probably not to the extent of the directness with which it came.

"Mr. Lacey," replied COIN, "it is not the hire of property that enters into this subject ; it is the exchangeable value of money with property. You loan, that is, you hire your money out for a less charge, and so does a man hire his horse out for a less charge ; but if this man who owns horses wants to exchange his horses for your money, he must give up two to three times as many horses as he would have had to do a few years ago. The hiring of property is a very small part of our commerce ; it is the exchange of property for money that constitutes the great bulk of business, and in this exchange your property, money, is ever exchanging for more and more property ; property is ever exchanging for less and less of your money. To continue this thing indefinitely the men of money will own all other property.



"All the property in the United States, Mr. Lacey," continued COIN, "is assessed by the census of 1890 at a little over 24,000 million dollars, while you money lenders," and he smiled on the polished banker, "have got the people in debt to you about 40,000 million dollars. This same property that is assessed at 24,000 millions of

dollars, is estimated to be worth about 65,000 million, but no one claims that it would, under present conditions, sell for more than two-thirds of its value; in fact, it is selling in many places at forced sale for less than its assessed value. So you see, Mr. Lacey, the *dollars* due you people will now exchange for *all* other property in the United States."

"I don't understand your figures," said Mr. Lacey. "You say the total assessed value of *all* the property in the United States is about 24,000 million dollars, and yet *we* own about 40,000 million dollars worth of bonds, notes and mortgages (that is what I suppose you mean). How can it be," continued the banker, "that the assessed value is only about 24,000 million when we (the money lenders) own 40,000 million dollars of securities, which is property, worth in most instances, its face value?"

"I will tell you how that is," replied COIN. "The assessor's books of this county for this year, show that the *credits* of all the banks in this city, which means all the notes, bonds, mortgages and other securities and collateral held by them, are assessed at \$10,000. In this, the largest city in the country, with its tens of millions of securities held by its banks, *that* is what they are assessed for, Mr. Lacey—\$10,000. The *money* in the banks of this city, whose statements to their depositors show millions, is assessed at \$43,925. These facts will answer your question, Mr. Lacey! I will get a certificate from the proper official of these facts and send it to you.

"I want to call your attention to another thing," continued COIN, "that while all the *securities and money* in the banks of Chicago, amounting in the aggregate to hundreds of millions is assessed at \$53,925, the agricultural tools, implements and machinery of Cook county

are, by this same report of the assessor, assessed at \$84,-392. I will furnish you with a certificate for that also. These will explain to you," concluded COIN, "how it can be that all the property in the United States is assessed at 24,000 million dollars and yet securities calling for 40,000 million dollars can be in existence. You money men control the assessment laws and assessors, and escape taxation."

Mr. Lacey had begun to look worried and, evidently, from his manner, wanted to move on, but the crowd had blocked around him and barred his passage. COIN, laying his hand on the banker's arm, said :

"Mr. Lacey, in many parts of the country interest on money *has not* decreased. In the Western states, in many places, two per cent a month or twenty-four per cent a year is being charged. Money among the people is scarce, and dear, and commands a big price." He then shook the ex-comptroller by the hand and bade him goodbye, and asked the crowd to clear the way.

Probably the most expressive face among those of all the people who attended the



MR. GEO. E. BOWEN,
Secretary Chicago Bimetallic Club.

reception was that of an old farmer who was present and heard the colloquy between COIN and Mr. Lacey. When he heard that the farmers' tools and machinery in Cook County were assessed for \$30,000 more than all the securities and money of the banks of Chicago, he knit his eyebrows and his face wore a troubled and almost savage look. As the people were about to move on he pressed his way over to COIN and asked him if it were possible that that were true.

COIN took the man by the hand as if he felt a genuine pleasure in shaking the hand of a farmer and replied that it was true, took the name and address of the farmer, and promised to send him an official certificate, giving the statement as he had made it.

The certificate afterward forwarded to Mr. Lacey and Mr. Thomas Spencer (the farmer) at Chicago Heights, Cook County, Ill., is herein copied and reads as follows :

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
AUDITOR'S OFFICE,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

I, David Gore, Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the statement of property assessed in Cook County for the year 1894, filed in this office in pursuance of law, shows among other personal property assessed in said Cook County for the year A. D. 1894, the following, viz.:

Agricultural tools, implements and machinery	\$84,392
Money of bankers, brokers, etc.....	43,925
Credits of banks, bankers, brokers, etc.....	10,000

The above items show all the property assessed under headings, herein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal,

DAVID GORE,
Auditor of Public Accounts.

The original of this certificate is on exhibition at the office of Coin Publishing Company, 115 Monroe street

Chicago. All farmers and others accessible to Chicago are invited to come and see it.

A similar certificate can be obtained by any one writing to the Auditor's office at Springfield, Ill., and inclosing one dollar. If requested the Auditor will also include in the certificate the fact "that *all the diamonds and jewelry* in the city of Chicago and Cook County are assessed at \$17,750." Single families in Chicago are known to own diamonds and jewelry of the value of more than ten times that sum.

Never in the history of the world were the people so subjugated by the influence of the money power as at the present time, and the people are not even conscious of the extent to which it controls them and makes them pay tribute.

Mr. Lacey afterward spoke of this scene as the most discomfiting incident of his life, and said that the memory of the expression on the farmer's face would remain with him forever.

THE HAND-SHAKING CONTINUES.

Mr. George E. Bowen next shook the little bimetallicist warmly by the hand and informed him that the CHICAGO BIMETALLIC CLUB had been organized as the result of his lectures. Mr. Bowen is the secretary of the Club and has since done valiant service in the cause of the people's money.

Mr. John Field, of Young, Smith, Field & Co., of Philadelphia, and a former postmaster of that city, wanted to know what France had to say about opening her mints again to silver.

"The French delegates to the Brussels conference," replied COIN, "said to the delegates from the United States, '*You were the first to close your mints; you should be the first to open them; we will follow you!*'"

"And keep it before the people what silver was worth as measured in gold at that time," said Mr. Willis J. Abbott, editor-in-chief of *The Chicago Times*, who was standing next to Mr. Field.

"Silver was at that time at a slight premium over gold, as I have heretofore explained," said COIN.

"And why, then, was it demonetized?" asked Mr. Adolph Kraus, proprietor of the *Times*, who was with Mr. Abbott.

"It was done secretly," replied COIN, addressing Mr. Kraus. "There was no reason, except that it might profit those who instigated it. Examine the files of your paper for the month of February, 1873, and you will see that not even the editors knew what had been done."

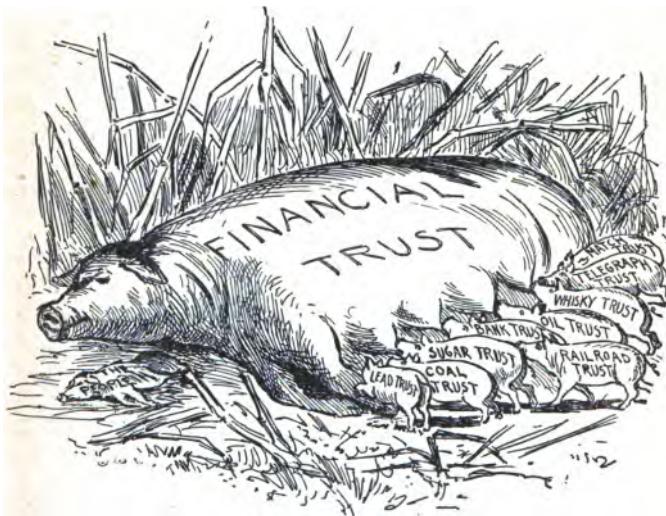
A moment later and Mr. John B. Drake, of the Grand Pacific Hotel, said to COIN, as he shook his hand:

"I see you call it a financial trust. That's right; I never understood it till I examined it in that light. When I was a boy," said Mr. Drake, "I went into a court-room one day to see a criminal trial, and I heard one of the lawyers say, that 'when a crime was committed the first thing to do was to find out who was to be benefited by it;' well, that's the way I have been studying this thing and I see it now."



MR. JOHN FIELD.

"You are right, Mr. Drake," said COIN. "It is the mother of all Trusts! With falling prices, came competition and combinations to hold up against declining business. Pools and Trusts were formed to hold up prices and to struggle against what they could not understand. Even our mercantile business is going into the hands of large, strong firms, while the little ones are being pushed to the wall."



THE SOW THAT BREEDS THE LITTER.

"Yes," ejaculated Mr. Drake, as he passed on. "It is the old sow that breeds the whole litter of pigs."

MR. WILLIAM MELLOR.

There is a gentleman Mr. William Mellor, living in Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois, who is quite deaf. When he talks to any one he talks very loud, and to make him hear he must be addressed in the same loud tone. He was a regular reader of the *Chicago Tribune*

and thought there was no one like Mr. Joe Medill, the proprietor of that paper.

He takes an interest in all public questions, but had never given especial attention to the "finance subject," as he termed it, till he read an official copy of COIN's lectures handed him by a neighbor on the Monday after they were delivered. When he had finished reading them the following morning, he went out to his stable and backed himself up alternately against two mules that he owned and tried to entice them to kick him. As the mules were good-natured he did not succeed in his object, and in an excited and irritated mood he returned to the house and began preparation for a trip to Chicago.

He was a puzzle to his wife, and on her asking him what was the matter, all she could get out of him, was incoherent remarks in which the words—"Joe Medill" and "*Tribune*," punctured with — — —, was all she could understand.

He was still muttering similar expletives and adjectives when he arrived at Chicago and entered the Palmer House, at the time the reception was in progress. In the office he got hold of one of COIN's handbooks, and as it was difficult for him to talk to any one, he took his place in the line and put in the time studiously reading it. When his turn came to shake hands with the little financier he was a picture to behold. He stopped and faced COIN; he put his hat on the back of his head, his hands on his knees, and he looked at the little fellow from over his eye-glasses. After an apparently satisfactory examination of what he regarded as a prodigy, he put out his right hand, saying at the same time with his voice keyed to a high pitch. "*Put it there young man; put it there my boy! I have found somebody that knows more than Joe Medill and I am real glad to see you!*"

And he was not disposed to pass on either. COIN had "put it there" and smiled pleasantly but that was not sufficient. Mr. Mellor broke forth in a loud voice, "I want to say to you, sir, that there was nothing in your whole lectures that I admired so much or was so instructive as that picture of the two tanks of water ; but you didn't say enough, you're countin' on everybody having some common sense on this subject, but they haven't," and he stopped and looked around at the crowd that was very highly entertained by his speech. He was talking very loud and probably three hundred people in the parlor and hall heard what he said.

"You have got to make it still plainer," he continued. "And I will tell you how to do it."

And, with this, he held up a part of page 26 of COIN's Handbook that he had cut out, showing the world's supply of gold and silver from 1852 to 1861 inclusive.

It read as follows :

	Gold.	Silver.
1852	132,750,000	40,600,000
1853	155,450,000	40,600,000
1854	127,450,000	40,600,000
1855	135,075,000	40,600,000
1856	147,600,000	40,650,000
1857	133,275,000	40,650,000
1858	124,650,000	40,650,000
1859	124,850,000	40,750,000
1860	119,250,000	40,800,000
1861	113,800,000	44,700,000

"Don't you see," he said, "how the output of gold was ahead of silver for the world, and yet the water in the 'tanks,'" and he almost yelled, "'staid the same height.'" He had paused a moment and looked around at the crowd and continued, "Supply hasn't anything to do with it; as long as the pipe connects the two 'tanks' the water is going to stay the same height ; old Jefferson knew what he was doin' when he rigged up our coinage

laws." Then addressing COIN, "If you'd put *them* figures in your lecture everybody would have understood it, even the editor of the *Chicago Journal* would've understood it."

There was a roar of laughter at this, and the crowd pressed against Mr. Mellor and he was forced to pass on.

A MONOMETALLIC PREACHER.

A moment later Stanley Waterloo, repeatedly president of the Chicago Press Club and author of "*A Man and Woman*" and "*An Odd Situation*," said to COIN that his peace of mind had been very much disturbed of late on account of the position on this subject taken by his minister who was preaching and praying in behalf of a gold standard. "Christ was not a money changer nor

a plutocrat," added Mr. Waterloo, "and I hope what you have said will be of some benefit to this wayward follower of His."

The minister referred to was the Rev. E. P. Goodwin of the First Congregational Church in Chicago. It was true, as stated, that he had advocated the cause of the gold trust in his sermons, and once in his prayer before the congregation he had used the following language:

"O Lord, we thank



STANLEY WATERLOO.

thee that Congress has not issued more paper money than it can redeem, and we especially thank thee, Oh, Lord, that the debased fifty-cent silver dollar is no longer coined."

COIN said to Mr. Waterloo that he had heard of several ministers who had talked as had this one and then added, "Forgive them, they know not what they do," and then he added further: "If we had the 'diamond standard' they would have an opportunity to thank the Lord for stopping the coinage of *two-cent* gold dollars."

"Then, technically," said Mr. A. F. Hatch, a prominent Chicago attorney, "a *dollar* is what?"

"Twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of *standard gold*" replied the little statesman. "Before the passage of the law that made that quantity of gold the *unit* and *dollar*, $37\frac{1}{4}$ grains of silver was the *unit*, and it and gold dollars were our dollars of redemption."

"And who had the option as to which of these dollars was to be paid out in the redemption of paper or token money?" asked Attorney E. P. Bradstreet, of Cincinnati; who was in the group of persons listening.

"The Government," replied COIN. "And thus no one had an interest in depressing the value of either while that was the law. The Government paid from the one it had the most of, or made its payments, if convenient, suit the conveniences of those seeking the redemption of their credit money. The Government, in this respect," continued COIN, "acted as you or any sensible person would act, it paid from that with which it was most abundantly supplied. This gave elasticity to our primary money."

"By this," said General D. B. Anderson, of Gallatin, Tennessee, "you mean that gold and silver together

made a more stable and reliable money and measure of values than either alone would make?" ✓

"Yes," said the little philosopher. "Like a fly wheel resting on two bearings, it ran more steadily and smoothly than it possibly could on one bearing."

THE MAN IN BUCKSKIN.

It is seldom that a person oddly or strangely dressed attracts attention in Chicago. It is a great cosmopolitan city where nearly all the races of the world can be seen upon its streets in a single day. This phase of Chicago street life is so common that Buffalo Bill or Dr. Carver can walk its thoroughfares without attracting particular attention, unless it be known to the people passing that the person thus costumed is a great celebrity.

So, when a tall, handsome man, dressed in buckskin and wearing the trappings of a hunter or Indian scout, took his place in the line, he did not attract more than special notice. He was of middle age, and under his broad brimmed hat were a pair of piercing brown eyes set in a face of unusually intelligent appearance. His skin was tanned and he bore the outward appearance of recent exposure and fatigue.

When he had approached within about ten feet of COIN, the latter saw him and a mutual look of recognition lit up the countenances of both. In a moment the man in buckskin was at the side of the little fellow and had raised him in his arms and the two were hugging each other all unmindful of the people looking on.

Both were in ecstasy over the meeting, and as the man set the boy down COIN said in gleeful delight, "My dear Mr. Schuyler, I am so glad to see you."

The man who had thus pleasantly interrupted the

reception, for anything was pleasant to the people present that pleased COIN; as this certainly did, was Mr. R. V. R. Schuyler, formerly of New York City, and at present of Biloxi, Mississippi. He had just returned from a hunt in the provinces of Canada and had arrived in Chicago by a Lake Michigan steamer.

A history of the attachment between the two is worth the relating. They had met in the Rocky Mountains when Mr. Schuyler was on one of his annual hunting trips and at a time when COIN was only seven years of age, and they had tramped the mountains together. Day after day the boy had followed the big-hearted man, sometimes above timber line and again through the gorges and canyons where only the occasional prospector was to be seen, and, save wild animals, the mountain goat and burro had ever trod.

They had slept under the same blanket, drank from the same canteen and shared together a victory



MR. R. V. R. SCHUYLER.

over a cinnamon bear near the Black Canyon of Colorado, and at another place a mountain lion. It is true the little fellow had not been of much assistance in killing the bear or lion, but his presence had given added comfort and courage to the trained nerves of the strong man.

It was on this trip that while eating their lunch one day on the brow of a jutting rock near a mountain summit, their attention was attracted by a large party of miners numbering a hundred or more filing down a trail near where they sat.

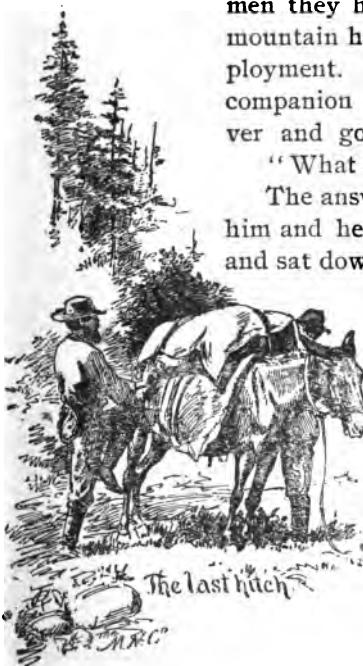
They learned that a silver mine had shut down near there on account of the low price of silver and that these

men they had seen going down the mountain had been thrown out of employment. COIN, after asking his companion many questions about silver and gold, finally asked him :

"What is money?"

The answer did not seem to satisfy him and he went off a short distance and sat down on the edge of a precipice and watched the miners until they passed out of sight. As he was rising to his feet an American eagle swooped by on swift pinions a few feet from his head uttering a plaintive cry. All the time the one question was passing through his mind,

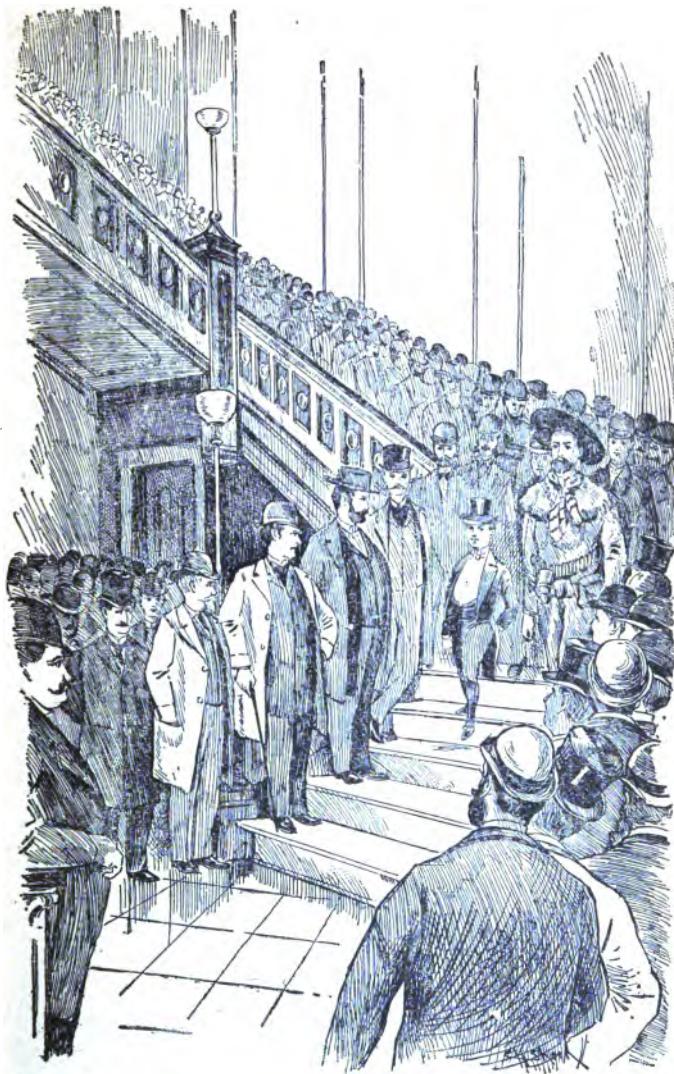
"What is money?"



It was the beginning of his study of the subject, and he naturally connected his friend Schuyler with his subsequent course and presence in Chicago, and was more glad to see him, probably, than any other one person.

As soon as the greeting was over Mr. Schuyler said : "It will be impossible for you to see and shake by the hand all the people who want to get up here. The lobby of the hotel is full and the streets are full of people, and this thing has lasted long enough now; you look tired."

Mr. Schuyler then suggested to the committee of bimetallists present that the people would be satisfied if COIN would make them a speech from the counter of the hotel office. It was agreed that this was best and the reception came to a close.



ON THEIR WAY TO THE OFFICE.

CHAPTER II.

THE SPEECH.

When the little statesman stood erect upon the marbled counter of the hotel, he faced a densely packed office and lobby, the throng representing every shade of life and class of business in the great metropolis of the United States, with a sprinkling of transient people that may at all times be found in that cosmopolitan city.

It was the first view of him that most of them had ever had, and the interest excited by an inspection of his person caused an intense stillness to pervade the entire assembly, so, that it was amid perfect quiet that he began to speak.

He was calm and collected, and all were impressed with the feeling that nothing but the emotions of a refined intelligence and a heart imbued with his subject animated his spirit and purpose. He exhibited all the manner of the trained and experienced orator, and yet there was that charm of youth and indefinable something about him connecting the thoughts of those who looked and listened with the nearly supernatural.

He spoke slowly and impressively as follows :

“Citizens ! Your happiness and your liberties are involved in a scientific subject ! As blood that now flows through your arteries and veins is to your health, so is money the blood of commerce and civilization to your well being. You cannot depend on the wise men

of the nation to solve this question for you. Some subtle influence seems to negative their patriotism and wisdom. If you would be prosperous you must study this subject yourselves! You must do it now! You must do it before it is too late! Do it before you lapse into a state of poverty and ignorance! A condition of semi-barbarism and European degradation is in store for your posterity unless you act now while you can!

"Two contending elements have striven for mastery in the world since the early morning of its history.

"One is greed, unconsciously organized, watchful, ever vigilant and aggressive; polished and refined, charitable with its alms, but always tenacious of those laws and usages which foster and protect it!

"The other," and now for a moment he raised his right hand and little face upward, "breathes the spirit of the angel, ever contending for peace on earth and good will to man; for equal rights before the laws, and a just distribution of the gifts of God.

"You cannot cast blame on those who contend for the former. They are but doing what has been inbred through generations—what you yourselves would do in their position—with here and there an exception, but not enough to check the strong current of selfishness in human nature cultivated through ages.

"An error, originating in animal instinct, has been transplanted into civilization, and has become a human instinct. To correct that error in civilization and extract that evil is the true study of statesmanship.

"If it is ever removed, it will be done by those peopling the North American Continent. It is impossible in Europe. The few who enjoy the luxury of wealth are in possession of those governments, and intellectual-

ity but sparkles feebly among the masses whose minds are moulded to the civilization in which they live.

"Before that intelligence can gain a sufficient potency in those countries, it is struck down by greed in defense of its privileges, and standing armies trained with a discipline that obeys all commands, pay homage to and stand guard over aggregated but unconscious selfishness. Free press and free speech exists nowhere at present upon the Eastern Continent.

"When these palladiums of your liberties shall cease to exist in this country, the torch of hope will be extinguished and darkness will close in upon the future centuries of the world's existence. *That* hope, cannot be realized in the Islands of the Pacific. None but a great nation like this could give it momentum and roll back the contending elements that would beat upon its shores.

"Civilization arose four thousand years ago on the Euphrates and the Tigris. It has since then traveled westward. In turn, it has striven for the fruition of its hopes, in Greece, in Rome, in the nations of modern Europe, and at last it fled across the Atlantic, ever pursued by that greed and selfishness implanted in man, that seeks to consume the products and fruits of its toil. This demon has left a blackened trail in its course, as it followed to devour what generosity had produced. The tail of the Serpent is in India, where the money power has laid the hand of palsy upon the original seat of civilization ; its body is in Europe, and its head is in once free America ! Will you fight it ? Will you profit by the lessons of history ? Will you let the monster which ✓has eaten out the civilization of the Old World destroy this of the New ?

"We are approaching a crisis in the history of the world ! 'Conservative business interests' appeal

for quietude. It is not because they prefer slavery for humanity to temporary withdrawal of the minds of the people from business ; nor because the roar of the Stock Exchange is more pleasant to them than the contemplation of a grander civilization ; but because the necessities of life hold them to business, and under stress of mind make them irritable and unconscious of any other relief except that provided for them by the civilization in which they live. They cry "confidence"! It is a natural cry. The law of self-defense prompts it. Two percent of the people in this country own over fifty per cent of its wealth ! Fifty million of souls in this republic own in their own right no place they can call home.

"And yet it is unpopular to utter these truths. The fact that it is unpopular assists in perpetuating the quality of civilization that produces it. Until that prejudice is broken, and the sunlight of impartial reason illuminates the human intellect and permits an analysis of the situation, there will be no hope for a better and purer civilization.

"Your property has been confiscated by law ! A law as cunning as the hand of the forger that raises a check ! Amid this wreck of prosperity and human happiness a mailed hand with half-drawn sword is about to strike to still the voice that utters a protest. Your constitution has been violated ! Unless the business men of America examine this trouble from a patriotic standpoint, that great chart of constitutional liberty will be torn to shreds ! Greed in possession of the government will use the gatling gun and bayonet to defend its unjust possessions ! A despotic government is the only protection to tyrants ! Selfishness accumulates the wealth of the nation ; its votaries and defenders seize the reins of government, brow-beat and malign the people they

have impoverished, and drive them to resistance—and then comes coercion—despair. Such is Monarchy! Such is Despotism!

"When 'Liberty Bell' pealed forth the alarm in 1776 it was treason to King George. The 'conservative business interests' of the colonies tried to hush the rising spirit of freedom and justice. [These same 'conservative business interests' are now trying to hush the protest against the crime that has pillaged this land—a crime that has transformed the honest, industrious farmers into tenants—a crime that has transferred forty thousand million dollars of property from the many to the few—a crime that has placed 97 per cent of the people under a debt to the remaining three per cent, the enormity and magnitude of which makes hewers of wood and drawers of water of the people of this republic!] It is a crime that has Europeanized America. A crime that is left as a heritage to your children and your children's children!"

While the little fellow was thus speaking there was a tall man with hair slightly grey and honest open face standing in a chair immediately against the outer rim of the counter and near where COIN stood. The commanding position he thus occupied by being in the chair and, his earnest attitude attracted the attention of the little speaker. It so happened that this man was the father of a little lame boy 12 years of age, whose deformity had in the years of his growth so worked upon the sympathetic affection of the father for the crippled son, that when he thought of the future or of any injustice to this boy, it raised up in his breast more than an ordinary feeling. This father had failed in the summer of 1893, and this little boy was working in Siegel & Cooper's great store for \$2.00 per week.

As COIN uttered the last sentence above quoted, he was looking directly at this man, and tears came into the latter's eyes. COIN laid his right hand on the man's shoulder and, without knowing what private grief he had touched, focused the attention of the whole audience on the scene that was then enacted.

"This crime," he continued, speaking as if speaking to the man, "brought a falling market, so the manufacturer found that the time intervening between the purchase of his raw material, and the sale of the finished article months after on the market, had consumed the profits. Long time payments on contracts made, and debts contracted, required more and more property to be sacrificed to purchase ever appreciating dollars, to make the payments when due; until this silent influence had drawn within its reach all the industries of the country and placed all property under tribute to it. For twenty-one years this silent influence has been at work! It has withered hope and fostered misery! It threatens the very life of the spirit represented in that noble figure." And with his hand still on the man's shoulder he turned his head and pointed with his other hand and index finger, to a statue of the Goddess of Liberty to which he had alluded, standing elevated near by in the office on his left.

He stood erect and paused in this position. Mark Antony did not make a greater impression on Roman citizens when he spoke of Cæsar's virtues and Brutus' dagger, than did then this little hero and impassioned orator. His words were simple but sublime. And as he thus stood looking alternately at the man and the statue he continued: "Their dagger went through the body and tore there a gaping wound. And yet, as said the assassins of great Cæsar, they say it was done by 'hon-



orable men'! *They* prate of 'honor'! That figure made by Washington and Jefferson," still pointing at the statue, "sacred to our liberties, bleeds at the hands of men who speak of '*honor*'! They consign the nation to a pauper's grave, and your children may perhaps work for a pittance a week till they wear out their little frames in a land of white slaves. Under present conditions the great debt now fastened upon the republic, its states, its cities and citizens can never be paid. The interest on it will absorb all the profits of business. It is a tribute laid upon you that makes you bonded slaves. A 'conservative business interest' would rather that this condition should continue than that business should be disturbed."

The man from whose shoulder COIN had now taken his hand, had at first shed tears, for he had thought of his boy. Then he had wiped them away, and a cold, hard expression, the swift result of his swift thinking, had come upon his face. The people, similarly affected, had been moved in the same manner. It was an intensely dramatic and patriotic scene. The little Statesman had spoken slowly and with an eloquence that can only come from the lips when originating in the soul. Reporters had laid down their pencils, everything was forgotten in the excitement and indignation that came with conviction, that a crime against humanity had been committed. It was Mark Antony to the Romans. It was Patrick Henry to the Virginians. The future of a republic hung in the balance! The destiny of sixty millions of people was at stake! This was the feeling.

"This wound inflicted upon the republic is deep," he continued. "It was inflicted by '*honorable*' men! They say it is an '*honest dollar*'! Those who would forge deeds to your property, will not hesitate to forge words!"

"History will teach you," and he paused a moment, "that men committing great wrongs against the people have always assumed the mask of '*honorable*'! Conscious of the character of this banditti dollar, they sought to defend it with the cry of '*honest*' dollar! They wore this mask while draining the cottage homes to enrich the palaces! They count their '*honest*' dollars, while counterfeit statesmen extend itching palms to receive a share! The ears of these '*honorable*' men are deaf to the cry of distress! In the possession of surplus wealth, these '*honorable*' men are insensible to the feeling of the homeless and the destitute! These men who speak of '*honor*' are filling the land with crime; with prostitution; with the wreck of human characters! Those country homes that reared noble sons are disappearing in the republic! Those girls intended for mothers—such mothers as ours—are becoming shop girls, whose nervous lives are made a sacrifice on the pyre erected by these '*honorable*' men!

"It is a *dear* dollar, so dear that a farmer must give up two bushels of wheat to buy one of them, where before he purchased one dollar with one bushel of wheat. The cotton planter must give up twenty pounds of cotton to buy one of these dear dollars, where before he purchased one of them with seven pounds of cotton. A debt for \$1,000 that 1,000 bushels of wheat would have paid ten years ago, now requires 2,000 bushels of wheat. The men who committed this crime, and all accessories to the crime after the fact, who have attempted to profit by it, own your debts to the amount of 40,000 million of dollars payable in these '*honest*' dollars, and have the courts and machinery of law to enforce their payment, payment in a dollar of their own making, to get which you must sacrifice your all! The enforcement of an un-

just law, that deprives you of your property, and brings to you and your family hunger and want, is despotism. It means strife. It means bloodshed. It means a military government. It means an autocracy!

"They call it a sound dollar!"

"What shall we call it? It is the sound of the clod upon the coffin! It is the sound of the auctioneer's hammer!" Then pausing for a moment, he continued:

dear
"It is a cancer eating out the heart of the government! It is an inhuman monster that feeds upon human misery and quenches its thirst in the tears of widows and orphans!

"'Conservative business interests,' are asked to condone this crime. Our business men, are asked to sustain a law that sets the example of crime. They are asked, to legalize dishonor. They are asked, to feed a flame that will itself consume them!

"The confiscation of property by King George, against which our forefathers protested, is insignificant in importance as compared with the twenty-two years of increasing money measurement and falling prices. The men who have thus despoiled you and 'conservative business interests' now want a 'strong government.' Right the wrong and repudiate the crime, and a 'strong government' is not necessary. If you do not, a 'strong government' is necessary. The standing army will be increased, the 'gleaming bayonet and the whistling bullet will be declared messengers of peace' to overawe the people and rivet upon them the chains forged in the crucible of the act of 1873. These men are blind to the fact that the strongest government possible is a government founded on the affection of its people—of the common people. Citizens, arouse! Kindle anew in America the fires of liberty!

"Patriots! will you act?"

"Yes, yes!" and, "We will, we will!" came from the lips of strong and earnest men in the audience.

There was no applause nor cheering. The situation was too grave for that. A feeling pervaded the crowd similar to that which was experienced when Lincoln was assassinated. A nation trembled in the balance.

"Tell us what to do?" came in a chorus of many voices.

"The remedy is to restore the money of the constitution and give back rising prices and prosperity—to make it possible for the people to pay their debts and again enter business and own homes."

A murmur of approval ran through the crowd, and one man shouted, "What are we to do with the men who committed the crime?"

"Leave them," said COIN, pointing upward, "to Him who gave us to this earth."

"And how shall we treat the men who are lying to the people and still trying to deceive them?" said another.

"Leave them to their own consciences, and the tribunal of public opinion."

"Suppose it be a newspaper that insists on talking about a fifty-cent silver dollar?" asked another.

"If the editor escape the insane asylum," responded COIN, "leave him to his readers."

"Open the mints of the country," he continued, "to the free coinage of all the silver, and leave them open as they are now to all the gold, and coin all that comes. We will need it all, and more too, to bring back rising prices. It will put a million miners, laborers and artisans, at work in the mountains of the West; the blood of commerce will again flow through the arteries of business;

industry will again revive; millions of men will find employment; the hand of greed will be stricken from the throat of prosperity, and the shackles of impending slavery will fall from the limbs of sixty million Americans. The spirits of Washington, of Jefferson, of Jackson and Lincoln summon you to action!"

The little statesman had finished. His friend Schuyler had taken him in his arms from off the counter and embraced him. It was but an expression of the feeling of all who had heard him. The people dispersed to their homes and places of business that May day in a thoughtful manner. The situation was grave. They so regarded it.

And yet none thought it so grave, that in less than forty days they would see the bristling armaments of war in their city with ten thousand soldiers armed with all the deadly instruments of destruction thought necessary to quell the discontent of a restless and suffering people.

Pul

CHAPTER III.

COIN AND FRED.

It was about an hour after COIN had retired to his room in the hotel that Fred Wendling, the boy whom he had invited to come and see him, during the reception, knocked at his door.

Fred received a cordial greeting, and the little Statesman had soon made him feel so much at home that he entered with zest and real interest into all he saw and heard in the room of his mysterious and brilliant little host.

The room was large, simply yet richly furnished with a divan and easy chairs. Two well-filled bookcases and several pictures in costly frames on the walls made up the remainder of the visible furniture.

Coin laid down on his back on the divan and asked Fred to pull up an easy chair by his side, which the latter did, and they were soon in familiar and apparently to both agreeable conversation.

Fred Wendling was a boy fifteen years old and small for his age. He was bright, intelligent, and quick of comprehension. He first told COIN that he had read the lectures and could understand them; that there were only a few things he had to read twice in order to get their full meaning. "It was so much easier than arithmetic and algebra and those hard studies," he concluded.

"You go to school, of course, Fred?" asked the little host.

"I go to night school, and work in an office in the day time," replied his visitor.

"It would be better," said COIN, "if you could give all your youthful energy to an education. The business training, however, may be of value to you, as you are in a world where business culture of necessity must take precedence over all other qualifications."



COIN AND FRED.

COIN tested Fred on his knowledge of money as acquired by his short study of the subject, and found that he really knew all the cardinal points and leading principles that are necessary to guide one in its study. But Fred had not yet that confidence in himself that comes from familiarity with a subject, and was not ashamed to

ask questions on a topic that he knew men to be ignorant upon.

"During the reception," said Fred, "I heard a man say that you must certainly be mistaken about primary money being the measure of values, and that you ought to give your authority for the statement."

COIN smiled as he began to reply. "What they mean by authorities," he said, "is what others have said or written on the subject. On either side of any question embraced in the financial subject, authorities can be stacked up very high. You can prove either side of any subject with authorities. What we want to do is to exercise our senses, and not trust to some one's else sense expressed at some time in the past, when there was less light on the subject than we have now."

"It reminds me," he continued, turning over on his side and facing his companion, "of the time when there was a dispute as to whether the world were flat or round. The bookworms claimed that it was flat, and when those who took the other side of the question said it was round, they at once met the objection, 'Where is your authority?' The proponents of the new or 'round world' idea pointed to natural reasons, such as a ship coming into sight on the ocean, where its topmost sails would first come into view, then more sails, then the hull. 'But,' said the other group, 'we have the authority on our side,' and would proceed to read from books and ancient scrolls that the world was flat. That was only about 400 years ago. No, Fred, rely on reason. Self interest has made authority enough on the other side of this question. Let us illuminate it with reason. If they will think over what I said and study the force and gist of it, they will agree with me. Average prices persist in keeping a relative distance from the quantity

of primary money. They should not want to argue against a fact. The wheat brokers of Chicago could not be made to believe that wheat certificates in circulation advance the value of wheat, unless there were more certificates out than there were wheat to redeem them, and then there might be a sudden advance in the price of



wheat during the panic that would follow the scramble to get wheat to make the shortage good. Such a demand for wheat would make an advance in its relative value to other property temporarily, just as an over issue of credit money would bring on a panic and enhance the

value of primary money, which is evidenced by what is known as a decline in prices."

"But one of the men," interrupted Fred, inquiringly, "said that during and after the war there was no gold nor silver money, and only paper money, and yet there were good prices?"

"Paper money during that time was itself primary money," explained COIN. "We did not have during that time two kinds of money, primary and secondary, but only one kind, and that was paper money. It was not redeemable in property money. It therefore became the measure of values itself. It was primary money. When property money came into use again, it took the place of paper as primary money and again became the measure of values; paper money then changed its position to that of credit money redeemable in primary money."

COIN recognized that this was probably a little abstruse for his young visitor, and was about to turn the subject, when it occurred to him that he could give him a fact, like the ship coming in sight on the ocean, that would settle the one point of primary money being the measure of values.

He had now risen from his reclining position and was sitting upright on the divan.

"Fred," he said, "watch the price of silver. As it declines, the average price of all property will decline with it. I don't mean each kind of property, for there may be special causes affecting some, but take twenty or thirty staple products, and the average price of them will fall or rise as silver does.

"England last year put India on the gold basis and closed the mints there against the free coinage of silver; in a few days there was a big drop in the price of silver,

for it threw more work on gold, increasing the demand for it. Wheat, cotton, and nearly everything followed."

What COIN said is yet fresh in the minds of nearly every one. Wheat and cotton fell 25 per cent in a few days, and a panic resulting from the fall in prices spread around the entire world. A greater demand had been thrown upon gold—primary money. The quantity of secondary or credit money was as much as it ever was, but prices broke and fell with the lessening quantity of primary or redemption money. Silver the day before was primary money in India, but it was now destroyed as such and the quantity of primary money in the world was less, by the quantity of silver demonetized in India. Gold (the primary money) had enhanced in value to that extent.

"Silver still bears the same relative value to other property that it always has," said COIN. "Other property comes down with it; hence at its lowered price it will still exchange as a rule for as much of other property as it ever would."

Then rising he went to one end of the room and drew back two damask curtains and brought forth a globe representing the world, and turning it over put a finger on Japan and China, and said to his companion who had followed and was standing by him, that in his judgment these two countries would be the next to come under the influence of England and go to the gold standard, and then there would be another sudden drop in prices.

The trend of Fred's questions, however, soon developed that his mind was on the speech that COIN had made in the hotel office, and he was at a loss how to account for what had been done by the national lawmakers.

"Why do men do such things?" he asked.

"Partly through ignorance as to the effect of the laws they pass, partly through negligence, and partly from evil intentions," replied the little Statesman, as he resumed his seat, and continuing said:

"Men elected to Congress as a rule, and it is almost a universal rule, think only of serving their vanity or benefiting themselves. They regard the office as a personal gift from which they are to derive all the personal benefit to be obtained. They think only of advancing themselves and not of advancing their country. They do not look on the salary they receive as intended to pay them for the time they spend in the service of their country, but as something to help them in the struggle for fame in the world, or as compensation for their time consumed in rewarding those who took a personal interest in their election, or as an additional income while they devote most of their time to the practice of their profession or in prosecuting their regular business. They do not regard the government as mortal—liable to die—and that there is any necessity for studying statesmanship; they regard themselves as fortunate wards of the government empowered to get out of it for themselves and their friends what is to be obtained.

"I was traveling on a railroad train," continued COIN, "a short time after the last congressional election, and two men were conversing who sat on the seat in front of me, and I could not avoid hearing what they said. One of them was a newly elected congressman from the West, and the other evidently his intimate friend. Among other things the congressman said to his companion that the principal reason he had for congratulating himself on his election was that it would bring him in contact with the rich men of the East and give him an opportunity to make money."

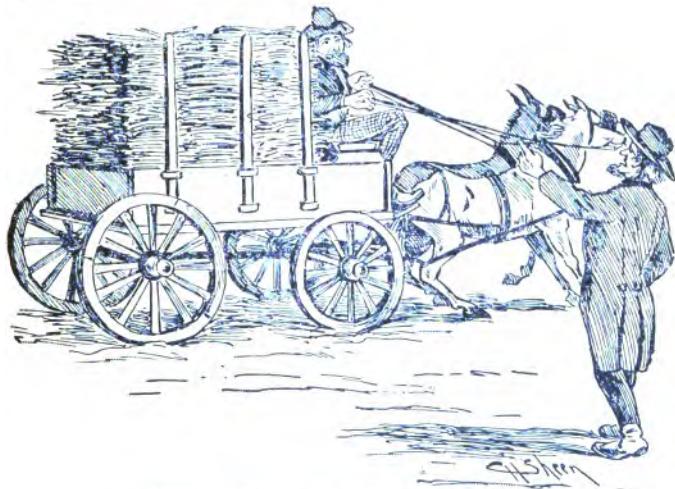
"Did he mean to 'sell out'?" asked Fred.

"No! That was not what he meant," was the reply; "but it would probably unconsciously result in that. He meant that he would put through some land deal, or organize some company or corporation, or manufactory in his state with Eastern capital, wherein he would make money. To benefit himself was to be his first object and to serve his country was to him a secondary consideration. This, would bring him under the influence of capital, and when he was told by it, while coveting its favors, that there would be no money for investment till a certain bill passed Congress, or until a certain bill was killed, it would be very likely to cause the vote of such a man, to be cast that way. Such men have no time to study statesmanship, they are busy studying their own interests, and never fathom the scope and depth of the science or the obligations of government."

The little host then named several senators and members of the House of Representatives who had been elected pledged to their constituents to right the great crime of demonetization, who had afterward, under the influence of patronage and Eastern capital, voted for compromises and other obstruction tactics and had come back to their people saying that they had changed their minds and had the courage of their convictions to say so. And then he said that it reminded him of a fellow by the name of Cook, down in Mississippi, who had run for constable against a man who had held the office two terms and was then running for election the third time. That it was about the time the country was discussing the propriety of General Grant being elected President a third time.

"The new candidate," said COIN, "made the argument that no man should be elected for a third term, and on this issue he beat his opponent whose name was

Bush. Cook ran a second time and was elected, and at the end of that term became a candidate a third time. The next day after announcing his candidacy he saw his old opponent, Bush, coming into town on a load of tan-bark. Cook, the constable, and now candidate for a third term, hailed his old rival and told him that he owed him an apology.



THE COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS.

"'What for?' said Bush, reining in his team.

"'Two years ago I beat you,' said Cook, 'on the third-term issue, and at that time abused you for wanting a third term. I have changed my mind and I want to apologize. I am a man who has the courage of his convictions and am not ashamed to change my mind when I know it's right to do so.'

"At another time," said COIN, "while eating supper at a hotel two men at the same table were talking about a man who had been elected to Congress, when

one of them said to the other that he knew that man, the newly-elected Congressman, to be dishonest. That he had of his own knowledge known him, together with a partner, to defraud a man who had confided a trust to them, and that such a man would be the easy victim of trusts and corporations that would control his vote. The man to whom this was addressed at the supper table, replied that he had the same opinion of the man, but then added, 'that is to be expected, and if you and I were in Congress we would do the same thing.'

"This man who thus replied to his companion," continued COIN, "looked down in his own black heart and judged other men by himself. But unfortunately it seems to be too true as to many. We must in some way educate the boys growing up to understand that it is best to be honorable; that a good name is better than riches, and that patriotism and love of country should have first place in our thoughts." And pausing a moment, COIN then added, "When you get to be a man, Fred, each time you are about to vote, ask yourself this question concerning the candidate for office, 'Is he trying to serve *himself* or his *country*, and if elected, is he to be congratulated or his *country*?"'

"Why don't the people elect better men?" asked Fred.

"The men they elect," replied COIN, "are representative men. I don't mean to say they are all bad men, but most of them are unconsciously governed by selfish purposes. Those who are not are very few, and are usually modest, and are seldom ever selected to hold office. This condition that I have described to you is normal—I mean natural. It is a result created by greed, a greed that seeks to acquire useless wealth, and sets an example to be followed by others till it extends

all the way down to the poorest. So thoroughly is ~~human nature saturated~~ with a desire to gain wealth that the poor man who has been the victim of ages of injustice and oppression will frequently for temporary gain turn and work against his fellow-man."

"I have known unscrupulous politicians to buy workmen to go into the organizations of their brother workmen and raise dissension purposely to disrupt and scatter them.

COIN paused a moment and then began again :

"A few men have gained so much wealth in this government that it leaves so little for the greater number, that the competition has become sharp and fierce among the many for what is left. It will grow sharper and fiercer as that little grows less, and as the number of people who need it increases.

"Suppose," continues COIN, and he now rose and stood in front of his companion with his hands placed behind him, "there were a little lake of water fed by the rains, and there were no other way to replenish it, and that it afforded just sufficient water for the use of the people who could get water in no other way than out of this lake. Now what would be the just and proper way for them all to act?" As he said this he paused a moment, looking at his little visitor, and then continued :

"It would be for each to carry away only so much water as he needed. If one man in his business used water to run machinery that was useful to society and that gave employment to men he should have more than his neighbor who only used it to drink. That is the way the natural benefits bestowed by an all-wise Creator upon the people of this earth should be used. No man needs for his comfort and necessities 100 million dollars worth

of property, or one million. The more the one has, as a rule, the less many others must have. The way this principle is now observed how would the lake of water be drawn upon?"

And then answering his own question, as he walked thoughtfully like a man across the floor, he said: "The few would at once begin carrying it away and storing it, and the balance would fight over what little might be left in the bottom."



THEY FIGHT OVER WHAT IS LEFT.

"Why don't they do what is right and try to make every one happy?" asked the little visitor, who was impressed with the illustration of the lake of water.

"The civilization in which we live," said COIN, "is hedged in and protected by laws that encourage the opposite result. Our forefathers thought to prevent this by providing against estates *entail*." And then COIN explained to Fred what that meant, and then added,

"But under the laws they did adopt this accumulation of property went on."

"Ought not people to store away something for an unlucky day?" asked Fred.

"Most certainly," was COIN's reply. "But it should not be to an extent beyond the necessities of their lifetime and that of their children, when by doing so it deprives others of comfort and happiness."

"And what has silver to do with all this, then?" asked Fred, with a desire to return to that subject.

"It was destroyed as real money," replied COIN, "to aid those who were selfish and in a position to take advantage of it, to take property away from others who were oppositely situated."

"And why did not the others see it and prevent it?" was the next question.

"Fred, did you ever see 'three card monte' played?" asked COIN.

"No," was the reply.

COIN walked over to a table and picked up three envelopes and then explained to his guest that there were men who could take two reds and one black card and so shuffle the three that one looking on could not follow with his eye the black card, though always willing to bet that he had followed it and could pick it up. But when the man, whose eyesight was thus deceived picked up what he supposed was the black card, it was one of the red cards.

"As the three card monte man deceives the eyes of men, so have the money changers deceived the minds of men," concluded COIN.

"And our preacher calls this a Christian age?" remarked Fred in an inquiring tone.

"Christ," said COIN, "turned over the tables of the

money changers in the marts of Jerusalem, and they and their kind followed and killed him for it. This same class of men are possessed of the same disposition now and will fight like tigers to protect what they have wrongfully obtained. They excite prejudice against those who criticise their action. They have a newspaper in this city that represents them, that hurls all kinds of abuse at those who question the methods these money changers have used to rob the people. All bankers and money-lenders, however, do not approve of what has been done, and some of them are honest, humane men. They all think they are honest, but nearly all of them are unconsciously dishonest. This newspaper I refer to is now claiming that all men who protest against this great wrong are disturbers of the peace and should be arrested and put in jail, or tried for insanity and incarcerated. It has recently said this. It uses almost the exact language that history ascribes to those who persecuted Christ and his followers, till they were killed, many of them being burned at the stake."

"I saw a man," said Fred, "once pick another man's pocket, and on being accused of it by the man robbed the pickpocket turned on him and abused the poor fellow till I really believe he convinced the man that he had not been robbed at all but had in some way lost his money out of his pocket. That pickpocket talked just like the newspaper you speak of. What you have said reminds me of it."

"That's it," replied COIN, "human nature is the same in the poor as it is in the rich robber. The difference between them, however, is that one violates the written law and the other does it with the written law. Both break the unwritten law—the law of God."

"And do you think they will persist in refusing justice to the people?" asked the office boy.

"Yes," was the reply. "Fred, you do not understand. These men are acting naturally. They are the product of a principle, and cannot but act the way they do." And as the little Statesman delivered each rounded sentence he made the most graceful gesture with his right hand and index finger. "If one of them," he continued, "were to become convinced that demonetization had enriched him, a creditor, and destroyed others financially who were debtors, he would not try to restore it. In such a case he would knowingly be the recipient of the results of a crime. Knowing this, he denies that the crime has been committed. He will not be convinced against his will. By acting thus he becomes a party to the crime by having willingly permitted himself to be benefited by it. To act differently is beyond his power, as he is moved by feelings and instincts that have been fostered and encouraged till they have become a part of his human nature. The fact that he is rich and polished in his personal appearance gives him influence with his neighbors. This was true of the rich planters and slave-holders of the South. The fact that a man is rich and intelligent does not prevent him from being the exponent of an unjust and dangerous principle."

"This instinct," he continued, "has become so cultivated in the human race as to cause people to act toward fellow-beings with greater injustice than animals would act toward each other."

And as he said this he walked over to a book-case and took down a book, and as he held it in his hand he explained to his visitor that "on a supposed occasion some monkeys once held a convention to consider the improvement of their race. The monkeys having heard

that the human race had descended from monkeys," said COIN, "and believing that something could be learned by an investigation that would improve their condition, appointed a committee to make an examination and search for such information as might corroborate this statement. If true, they thought it would be of invaluable assistance in promoting the advancement of the monkey-race."

"The chairman of the committee made the report as follows," said COIN, reading :

We've traveled wide and far away,
We've seen wise men and fools,
We've seen them in their churches pray,
We've seen them in their schools.

We've seen how drunken men may act,
When thought to anger flies ;
We've heard them tell for solemn fact
The most blasphemous lies !

Disgusted with each monarch's sway
And with his cringing tools,
We sought in far America,
The boasted right that rules.

Where noble fathers fought and bled
To free themselves from Kings,
We found degenerate sons were led
And ruled by thieves and rings ;

That crafty knaves, who know them well,
To settle a dispute,
Impelled the masses on pell mell
To play the human brute.

The knaves would then divide the spoil,
The fools divide the lead,—
So was renewed the grim turmoil
Till half the fools were dead !

And then the living half would herd
And work like willing slaves
To pay the bloody debt incurred ;
And then—fill paupers' graves !

They boast religions that they know,
And boast of crowded schools,
But if we monkeys acted so
Why we, too, would be fools !

For, when the Providence divine
Provides abundant fruits,
We do not curse nor do we whine
As do those human brutes.

We go to work, as we have learned,
And gather in our store ;
Each monkey gets what he has earned,
And asks for nothing more.

But men have quite revised our plan,
Pelf is their chiefest care,
Each one securing all he can,
Though from another's share.

They pray when gathered in the fold,
To God to give them grace,
" If not, O Lord, then give us gold ;
We'll take that in its place ! "

•
If Darwinites their cause maintain
We need not feel elate—
If men were monkeys once, 'tis plain
They've fallen from their state !

But what we've seen and what we've heard
All only tend to show
That Darwinism is absurd—
We could not fall so low !

They both had a good laugh over what COIN had read, but recognized its truthful portrayal of human character.

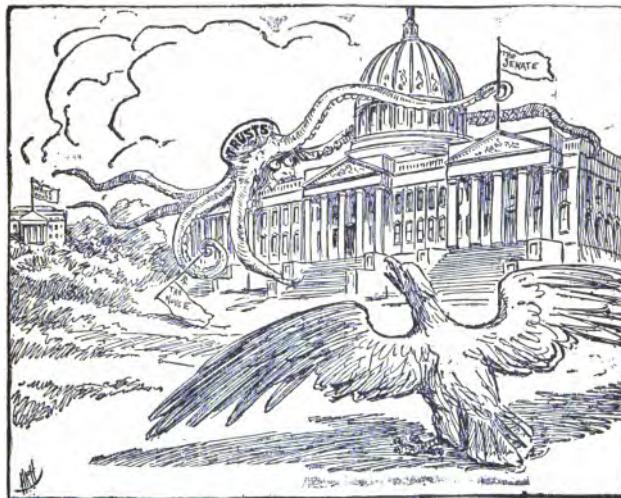
"Fred," said COIN, walking up to the former in a friendly way and laying one hand on Fred's shoulder, "when I had become convinced as to the trouble in this country I decided to go to Washington and examine the situation there. I am a good judge of men, and can usually tell at a glance the calibre and character of any one. It accounts for my inviting you to my room; I liked you as soon as I saw you. I am not like the men who want to hide the defects of their city or state or nation for fear publicity will injure them in some way or hurt business, but I want to know if anything is wrong and go at it at once to remedy it. So," he continued, "I went to Washington and I watched the Senate and House when in session, and looked into the faces of the senators and representatives as I purposely passed them when they came and went in and out of the Capitol. I noticed the lobbyists, and I looked into *their* faces, and I came away and went to a great artist to have a picture painted that would represent in some striking way what I had seen there."

And COIN took Fred by the arm and walked with him over to one side of the room where a covered painting hung. COIN stepped back and lit the gas, as it was growing dark, and then returning to where his little guest stood, he said :

"All the great painters of the world have in their time tried to throw upon canvas some striking delineation of national character. The rise and fall of the Roman Empire may be read in its paintings. Mr. Jean Smith, the great Chicago artist, has in this instance made the most notable representation of a nation in the throws of

dissolution, and under the influences that have destroyed the republics of the earth than has ever yet been made by a painter's brush.

"I am now going to show you," he continued, "the painting which represents Congress as I found it," and stepping under the picture he pulled a string which caused the curtains in front of it to part, and this was the painting disclosed to the eyes of his youthful companion.



"Now, most people," said the little Statesman, stepping back to where he could gaze again on the picture himself, "and especially *'the conservative business interests'* would look with disgust on these facts that I found at Washington, and would say 'cover it up,' as I do the inanimate picture, 'and keep quiet about it.' But I believe in seeing it, when it exists, and killing it as soon as possible. This cannot be done as long as we ignore its existence," he concluded.

And then he told Fred about coming into his room the day before and finding a servant girl almost paralyzed with horror standing before the picture. Her curiosity had gotten the best of her and she had found a way to remove the covering and was standing in ghastly awe at what she beheld.

Fred was scarcely less affected at what he saw. The hideous monster seemed to be looking down at him, and so natural was its life-like appearance that the effect was to make him feel as if it were about to reach down and draw him within its deadly fold.

COIN drew the string and the curtain closed again over the picture.

"Can't we kill it" asked Fred, using the expression COIN had uttered a moment before and showing by his manner that his sympathies were fully enlisted in the cause.

"That will depend," replied COIN, "on the intelligence of the people and the unity of purpose with which they act. There are two prominent obstacles to our success. One is selfishness, the other is ignorance. The first of these will cause men to desert us for temporary gain or advantage that may be thrown in their way. The other—ignorance—is principally among the class of men who are incapable of understanding the causes that have reduced them to poverty and a life of degradation. We will go out together, and take a look at this class to which I refer."

And then, with the remark that it was raining, he went to the closet and took down two light rubber coats and told Fred to put one of them on, remarking that they were of about the same size. He assisted his companion in putting one on and had just picked up the other, when there came a knock at the door.

On opening it, COIN found it was Mr. Bowen, secretary of the Bimetallic Club, who, on seeing that the little Statesman was engaged, announced what had principally been his reason for calling. It was to say that the club was so well pleased with his lectures that it was going to try to raise money to distribute a million copies of the report containing them, in the United States. With that purpose in view letters would be sent at once to the rich men of Colorado and the other silver States for assistance.

As Mr. Bowen made this statement he was standing in the doorway and COIN was just inside the room looking him kindly in the face.

As COIN heard and caught the full meaning of Mr. Bowen's intention he reached into his pocket and took out a little purse, used for carrying change. Holding this up he said :

"Mr. Bowen, save your postage. I would not give the five dollars or less, that is in this purse, for all you will get in answer to your letters. If I could speak to all the people of the United States, I would say to them, 'Do not rely on the silver bullion owners and moneyed men of the silver States. This is a struggle for humanity, and the rich will give you no assistance from the silver States any sooner than they will from the other States. The man that you want to look for, to help you, is the rich philanthropist ; the man who wants to use his money to produce the most happiness ; whose soul is imbued with a spirit more lofty and noble in purpose than ever comes to that of the sordid and selfish ! It is only from such a quarter that you will get assistance. The owner of silver bullion can exchange it for about as much as he ever could, and he feels no very great personal interest in this subject. If independent of his

ownership of bullion he is rich in money and securities payable in money, which is usually the case, he has the same selfish interest in maintaining the present conditions that the man similarly situated in the East has.'

"The impression here and in the East among the people," the little fellow continued, "is that the rich men in the silver states are using the power of their money to further silver's remonetization. They, the people, have looked upon it as one selfish interest fighting another selfish interest, when, in fact, the selfishness has all been on one side. Nearly all the men you refer to in the silver states are bankers and monometallists, and only claim to be bimetallists because they live among people who are naturally bimetallists, and it would be disastrous to them in a business way to announce contrary views. They are giving no assistance to the cause of the people or the restoration of the people's money. They will spend their money for any great office, or to in some manner promote their interest selfishly, but will spend nothing for the great cause of humanity. The rich men in Denver, Salt Lake City, Ogden and other money centers in the silver States are doing nothing to assist in this struggle. The people must rely on themselves, and such help as only the money of a true philanthropist could bring with force to their assistance."

COIN asked to be excused, and, closing the door, proceeded to don his rubber coat, and then from his closet, which was stored with clothing he had worn in nearly all parts of the world, he brought forth two felt hats. He put one on Fred and the other on himself, and then both smiled as they looked in the glass to see if their disguise were complete. They left the hotel.

CHAPTER IV.

COIN AND FRED CONTINUED.

As the boys emerged on the street, there was yet some daylight, but night was prematurely closing in over the big metropolis on account of dense clouds that covered the sky in all directions. A fog was blowing in from the lake and a drizzling rain was falling, that made the streets disagreeable as the water mixed with the dust and dirt of the day's turmoil on the city's busy thoroughfares.

COIN locked his arm in FRED's as they turned at the exit of the hotel and walked rapidly South on State street. The newsboys with the evening papers were crying, "All about the great reception and speech at the Palmer House." It was wonderful what an interest the little Arabs of the street took in COIN. Was he not a boy like themselves? And he knew more than the men! That seemed to be admitted! This is the way the newsboys reasoned, and they were justly proud of a boy who had created such a furor in so big a city as Chicago. They had all suddenly become bimetallists. As one said to another, "Say Jakey, I am a bimet."

COIN and his companion stopped on the corner of State and Adams, while the little financier bought two papers, one for each of them, and they put them in their pockets under their rubber coats and passed on.

"Do you read the newspapers much, Fred?" asked COIN. And as Fred answered that he did, the little Statesman said :

"I want you to notice hereafter how they are filled with reading matter about events and scenes in Europe. I once knew," he continued, "what they call a real estate 'boomer' who was then 'booming' a city out West. And one of his chief sources of success was to work the newspapers to print all kinds of things about that city, and possible and impossible things that happened there. It caused people to go to that city and was the best kind of advertising." And then, he added, "The newspapers in this country are giving Europe the biggest kind of a free advertisement, and the big dailies are now competing with each other to see which can publish the most. Result," looking in the face of his companion, "ships crowded with people going to Europe. If one of our metropolitan dailies were to suddenly reverse its course and publish a real live *American* paper it would be a good stroke."

They had now reached Jackson street. As they turned to cross State, Fred, with his mind attracted to the subject by a big Jew firm on that corner, asked COIN what he thought of the Jews.

"The Jews," was the reply, "are the brightest race of people that inhabit the earth, and they treat each other with the greatest fairness as a rule. You never saw a Jew beggar, and they are seldom found guilty of crime. You should not be prejudiced against any race, as a race. There are bad as well as good men among all classes and races. Among the Jews, many become money changers; it seems to be natural with them, probably on account of their excessive shrewdness. They see that it offers advantages not possessed by any other

business. "But," he concluded, "this should not prejudice you against them as a race."

In the meantime the boys had turned up Jackson street and had reached Dearborn, where the street corners were filled with people taking cable cars and waiting for others to arrive. All the street cars were loaded with people, packed inside as full as the cars could get while the steps and platforms were crowded. It was the hour between six and seven when the great shops, factories, and office buildings turn out their thousands of daily occupants to go home for the night. A great city breathes once in twenty-four hours. It draws in, in the morning and exhales in the evening. To stand and observe the tired looking faces thronging the streets and hurrying home, one would say that it was a painful breath.

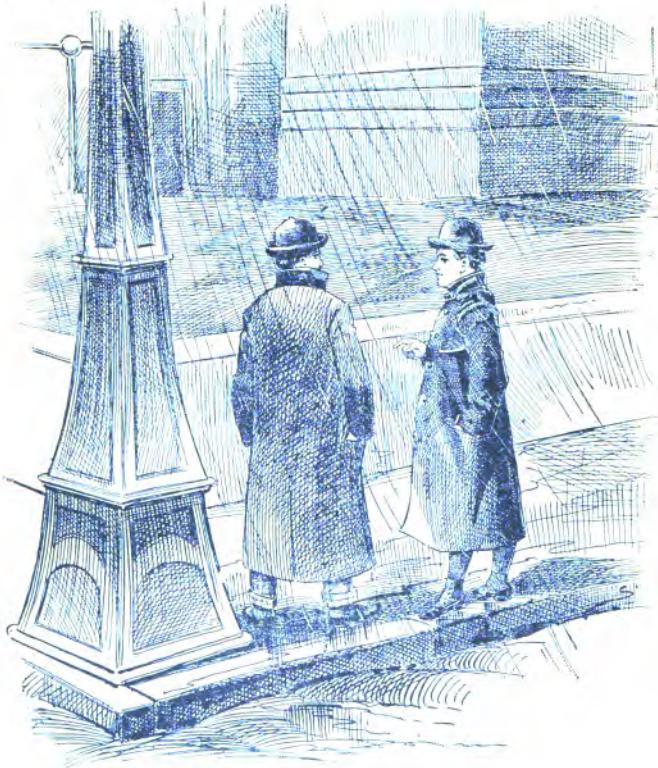
The boys stopped a moment and looked on. They were now at a point that might be said to be the center of a city of two million people. To their left and in front of them was the great Monadnock building, with its sixteen stories; to their right the Postoffice covering a square, and sky-scrappers obstructing the view in all directions. A dull, monotonous sound, broken only by the cry of the newsboy or the clang of cable car alarm bells, came upon the ear from all directions.

"I long for the country," said COIN, "let us move on."

They then crossed Dearborn and walked on up Jackson, past the Federal building, "where the postal business in the largest city in the United States is transacted," remarked COIN.

The little fellow now stopped and looked up at the big building that loomed up in front of them—a huge pile that now threatens to fall to the ground, the result

of political corruption and official rottenness connected with its construction, and where Postmaster Hessing and the federal judges are now afraid of their lives and that of their employés. After gazing at it for a moment COIN said :



LOOKING AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING.

"The United States judges should all be statesmen, and should be contented to live on their salaries. So should all officials for that matter; then they would

study the interests of the republic closer and would better understand the science of government. Our federal judges especially should be statesmen with broad views."

And then he added, "Thank God, they are not all lacking in statesmanship. I know one, Judge Caldwell, who is a man of the people. He wears a hat, Fred," and now COIN seemed to take boyish delight in praising the object of his admiration, "of the vintage of 1840, and he is as broad as his hat is big. He was appointed by Lincoln and is the last of our statesmen and jurists appointed by the martyred President that remains on the bench."

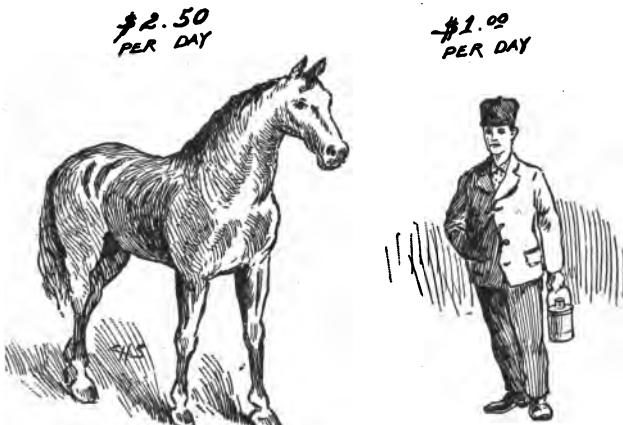
The two young philosophers now turned south on Clark street, and a moment later were passing in front of a livery stable, when COIN suddenly stopped, as if something had attracted his attention, and told Fred to come with him as he turned and walked into the stable. COIN asked the manager what it would cost per day to hire a saddle horse, "the *cheapest* you have," said the little economist.

He was told that the price would be \$2.50 per day. The boys said good-evening to the manager, and as they were passing out, COIN told Fred that he had noticed a labor employment office across the street just before he stopped. "We will now go over and see what we can hire a man for." They were told that day laborers could be had for \$1.00 per day. As they walked out of this place both uttered the words simultaneously, "a man is cheaper than a horse."

"And a man, a black man," said the little financier, "used to sell on the auction block for \$1,000. Thousands of white slaves are not now worth in the market their board and clothes." And Fred looked, as he list-

ened, at his companion with a queer expression, as he felt the force of the logic that it all depicted the decline of civilization since the Rebellion.

They were now entering, as they went south on Clark street, one of the many degraded portions of Chicago. Negroes, Whites, and Chinese were mixed in



A MAN IS CHEAPER THAN A HORSE.

about the same proportion. A stench came from every open door, and filth and obscene humanity grew more pronounced with each new step they took.

Dance houses and bar-rooms with pawn shops and second-hand clothing stores, made up the business of the street. Women with dishevelled hair stood in open doors, and painted harlots who had once been virtuous women, plied their trade on the street and drowned their reflections of innocent youth in the second-class whisky sold at the bars, or in the fumes of opium in the Chinese joints in the basements. If you were to preach to them of a better life, you would be laughed at or cursed. Accustomed to selfishness and sin, they would suspect

you of intending to do them harm. And has not everything they have seen in the world so taught them?

They had seen selfishness the mainspring that excited action in everything until it had grown and thrived, and had been cultivated in all the people they knew in the world they reached. It had been growing in them, was a part of their being, and had taken hold of them, and crushed them, and now they were the playthings of a vice-paved street.

"Here," said COIN to his companion as they stopped, "is the natural result of our civilization which teaches that the making of money is the prime and most important thing in life; 'make it honestly if you can, but make it,' is the lesson taught by our present form of civilization. The more you make the more you are respected. Everything else, including morals and humanity, is subordinated to that. Selfishness and greed, as recognized in the fundamental laws of every government that ever has been in this world, has encouraged the competition that grinds and pulverizes humanity. The whole thing is a machine that manufactures egotism, vanity, ignorance, disease and crime. In the ages we have improved in the arts and sciences, and why? Because selfishness, the love of gain, has lent energy and cunning to the hand! Otherwise we have not so much improved, and each invention has but served a selfish purpose—it has not resulted in the general good. Here, is but a repetition of what might have been seen once on the streets of Rome, of Athens, of Jerusalem and, I should judge, of all the cities of prehistoric times. The principle that produces it permeates all things; it controls all men; it makes our laws, and dominates all acts, public and private. Yes!" and now there was a cold, metallic ring in his voice, "it even seizes upon the

school-books of the children, until poor parents, tired of buying new books, keep their children out of school and with what money is left buy—bread."

As COIN thus spoke, they were standing in front of a pawnshop where from its front was suspended three gilded balls. A shabbily dressed woman was sitting on the steps with a dirty babe on her lap, protected from



SOUTH CLARK STREET.

the rain by the remnant of an awning that hung from the window.

"If our civilization," he continued, "was set right, all would compete to promote the general good, and each invention would serve that end. The human mind is a great storehouse that has scarcely yet been drawn upon. It is now kept employed providing for its physical wants,

and in most cases," speaking slowly and looking down at the sidewalk, "it cannot do that." And then raising his head and looking at his half-bewildered, but interested companion, he added:

"Unchain it, break the shackles that now enslave it, and it will stride a giant through the halls of art and science. The earth and air will yield their secrets, and man and woman will explore the universe." Then he checked himself:

"But I brought you here, Fred, to impress a lesson upon your mind. You see these people in all their rags and filth, their ignorance and their degradation. You have seen it before; you knew that the conditions existed, but now you see it to learn a lesson, and that lesson is this: No matter how unjust the laws are; no matter how financial legislation may be used to grind the masses that yet have something to be ground out of them, these people that you see here will never assist in correcting the evil; they will never know how it is done, and could no more grasp and comprehend this financial subject than could these boulders in the street. They are now willing tools and instruments to serve the base purpose of that same inhuman selfishness that reduced them to this condition, and for that which will temporarily satisfy their thirst or hunger, will put their votes in the ballot-box to serve its further purpose.

"If we, who are coming on the stage of action would redeem the human race, it must be done without the help of this class. Its numbers are increasing—increasing in proportion to the whole population. Tyranny finally paralyzes the limbs of civilization until it is incapable of resistance, either intellectually, morally, or physically. If we win, it must be before that stage is reached. The middle classes, those who can yet rea-

son and who can assert their independence of action, must do this, and it must be done before it is too late, or an endless night of gloom will draw its curtain over the future history of the world. Tyranny, is *greed*, asserting its right to what it has selfishly obtained. Despotism never comes in any government till a few have obtained most of the property." And then laying a hand on one of Fred's shoulders as they looked in each other's eyes, he said impressively, "That period has now arrived in this republic! There are fifty men in this country who together are worth one thousand million of dollars, and there are fifty million of people who are scarcely worth a single dollar beyond the clothing they wear. The time is come when the great test must be made whether this is to remain a republic or whether tyranny is to place upon it the blight that has made infamous the previous centuries of the world's existence.

"Come," he said, "we will return. But," and he paused, "there are lessons in our financial system to be learned everywhere. I want to show you how it is practiced among the poor," and he turned and they walked into the pawn shop.

As COIN approached the proprietor of the loan office he took from one of his fingers a diamond ring and handing it to the "Uncle," asked him how much could be borrowed on it. The man looked suspiciously at the boys, and finally said he could loan \$50 on the diamond.

"At what rate of interest?" asked COIN, taking back his ring.

"Five per cent," said the broker.

"Five per cent per—what?" asked the boy.

"Five per cent per month," replied the man.

"Sixty per cent a year," remarked COIN to Fred as he took his arm and they walked out.

"That's pretty steep," said Fred as they passed out on the street and started to return to the hotel.

"The poorer a man gets the less favors are shown him," replied COIN. "The poorer he gets the less influence he has in controlling those agencies that feed upon him."

"'Push,' they call it at the City Hall," remarked Fred.

"So," said the little Statesman without noticing the interruption, "we thus have two extremes;" and, holding up his two hands and placing the index finger of the right hand upon the little finger of the left, continued:

"There is the poor woman who goes and pawns her shawl, and gets 20 per cent of its value and pays interest on the loan at the rate of 60 per cent a year. And there is the banker—" and now he shifted his index finger from the little finger to the forefinger of the same hand—"who goes to the government and pawns, or hypothecates his 3 per cent bonds, and gets a loan to the amount of 90 per cent of their value and pays *no interest*, gets his 3 per cent interest on his bonds paid to him regularly, and is exempt from taxation."

"No!!!!" exclaimed Fred stopping suddenly and facing his companion, with an expression of amazement on his face. "They don't do that, do they?" and he still looked his surprise, till he noticed that he had attracted the attention of the people passing.

It was not that Fred doubted anything COIN told him that he had apparently expressed his disbelief, for he had implicit confidence in the little patriot, but at what he regarded as such a palpable discrimination in favor of the rich. It was hard for him to believe that in what was claimed to be a just government such a thing had been done.

"And when you consider," said COIN, "that this discrimination in this proportion is carried on in nearly all things against the poor and in favor of the rich and influential, you can see that we have not a just civilization. It should be the aim of government and states-



HOW CIVILIZATION AT PRESENT IS ADJUSTED.

manship to diffuse general prosperity among all the people, and especially the poor people. But it is set to a different principle." And the little humanitarian continued to dissect the subject that concerns all men. His manner was thoughtful and he spoke slowly:

"The same causes that have disrupted and destroyed the republics of Europe are at work in this country. We have not provided against it. Our Constitution is no barrier to it. A few gather up everything worth having; the others grow restless; some act like wild animals, and we cage them; then comes increased police force and standing armies, eruptions and reorganization of government, with the same thing to go over again. The man who undertakes to correct these evils, and they can be corrected, will be set upon by these men of wealth—selfishness—and they will tear him, figuratively speaking, to pieces.

"That farmer," he continued, "who to-day discovered at the reception that he and his brother farmers who only till the small rim of agricultural lands that surround Chicago were paying more taxes on their tools than are all the bankers, brokers, and money lenders in this opulent city, was dazed, and yet he was no less dazed than all the people, except a few, would be, if they knew how they were practically in the position of that Cook County farmer. They think it cannot be changed, or think it is their natural condition, or don't think at all. It is the legitimate result of the premium on selfishness in this world. Greed, crowds itself to the front, and habituates the human mind to accept its demands.

"The man who will combat what I have said," he went on, "is the man who has not studied this intricate machinery of civilization. He thinks he sees the world of business open alike to all—that opportunity is the same to all men. And he tells you so. He goes forth, the average man does, to struggle for success, and surrenders sooner or later, or is down and up again, but ever struggling against something that he feels but cannot see nor understand. He is smothered in a business

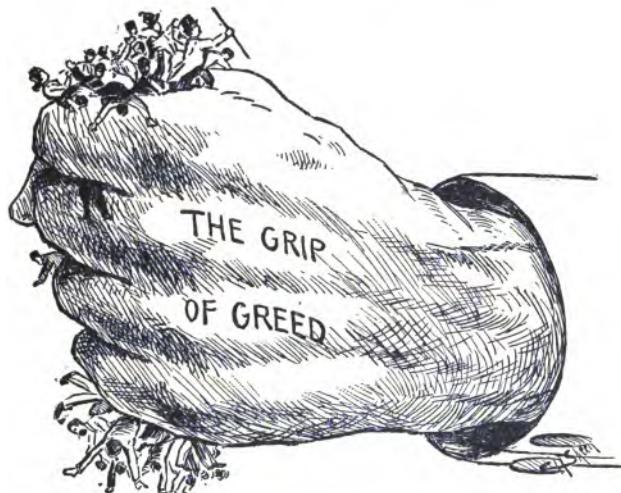
way without knowing the cause, as some poor animal would be if put in a closed room and a gas jet then turned loose.

"The great evil of the world," he went on, "is selfishness. It is in the air, in human nature, it is impersonal. No individual originates it, but it originates and controls the actions of individuals. It will prompt a class of men in a town or city to propagate an evil, or on a larger scale it will infect a class of men in a state or nation to stand together for a common purpose—a purpose that has an immoral and unjust object. It now has under its influence a class—the monied class of the entire world—and it is as heartless and unscrupulous as a 'dragon.' It is also blind," he concluded, "as selfishness always is, to its faults."

He paused a moment and then continued, "It is studiously cultivated. The young man who enters a bank with a good deposit is smiled on by the polished banker. The ability to make money, is a cloak that conceals most methods by which it is made. I do not mean that society will always protect a rich criminal, though it often does, but it will protect a pernicious principle that creeps into the social order and destroys the happiness of many. Selfish interests, stand together, and give common support one to the other. Men and women are but the product, the evidence, of contending spirits that control them—one is an evil spirit—the other the spirit of justice." He paused a moment and then he added, "It is possible to construct civilization so as to eradicate this evil—to rise above it and destroy it. It will make a stubborn fight, an unscrupulous fight, but it can be conquered."

They had now reached the hotel and a few moments later were in the dining-room eating supper together.

"By what right is it claimed," asked Fred, turning to COIN, "that national bankers borrow money from the government without paying any interest for it?" This statement had worried the little office boy. He was a shrewd, very shrewd boy, as many had noticed in business contact with him in the Chicago offices where he had come and gone on errands or in the transaction of



business usually intrusted to older heads. He had that intuition and keen intelligence that quickly detects false logic. He had been thinking, and now asked this question in a vain attempt to discover a reason.

"They give no reason," replied the little financier. "They say the government has no business to issue money, and ask that the special privilege of doing so be

delegated to them. Issuing money is an act of sovereignty," he continued, "which means an act of the government; but the rich and powerful, for the benefit to themselves there is in it, have impressed the law-making power, where the real interest of the people is rarely ever represented, that this money though issued by the government should be turned over to them to disburse. These men have looked wise, clothed their language in high-sounding phrases that no one really understood, but that all pretended to understand; have talked about 'bills of credit' and 'exchange' and the function of banks till they have secured by the influence that a combination of capital can always exert, what they wanted, which was practically the loan of this money without interest,—money for which the people when they wanted it had to pay to the bankers from seven to twelve per cent for the use thereof."

"I cannot yet understand why so unjust a thing could be done?" said Fred, inquiringly.

✓ "When you understand further that a majority of congressmen are stockholders in banks, you can understand it," said COIN.

"Ah!!" exclaimed the little guest, as he comprehended.

"If it is not so when a new Congress is elected," continued COIN, "the bankers see to it, and see that enough of them do become stockholders, and then with so much self-interest involved they rely on false logic and argument to do the rest. And then," he added, "many congressmen are the attorneys of banks."

"What are 'bills of credit'?" asked the office boy.

"What is termed 'emitting bills of credit,'" replied COIN, "is a paper issued by a bank which shows that the bearer has credit for so much at that bank."

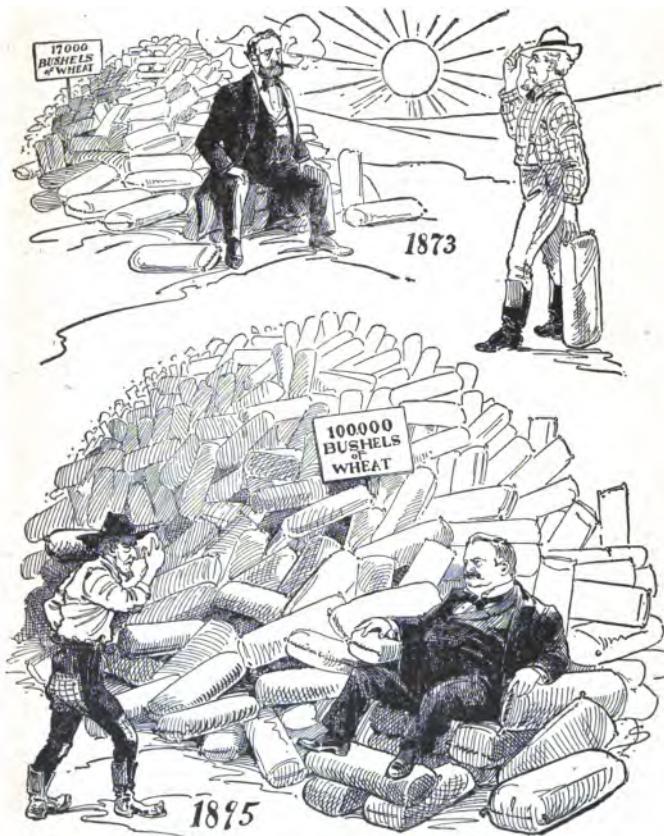
"Credit for what?" was the next question.

"Credit for so much money," he replied. "But it does not take the place of money in a way that would answer the same purpose as ordinary money. Credit money issued by the government passes everywhere, is sound, is good, is money. But these bills of credit, state bank money, pass locally or are inspected closely and often obstruct trade and commerce by being refused. Banks have, by false logic presented to Congress, made up as it is by their stockholders, attorneys, and men who know nothing about the question, secured the substitution of money issued by the government for their bills of credit, and had this money turned over to them for nothing. So that a banker," he continued, "who borrows a hundred thousand dollars from the government, for which he pays nothing, receives from the people to whom he loans this same money from \$7,000 to \$12,000."

"I now understand," said Fred, "how the rich are aided by demonetization, by false assessments and by this last plan. What other way is there?"

Their supper was now before them, and as COIN turned to devote himself to the pleasure of eating, he said, "It is too long a story, Fred," and as he slowly dropped three lumps of sugar in his coffee, he remarked: "The President now gets double the salary he did in 1873. Congressmen and many other office-holders have had their salaries increased, while the prices of the products of the poor people have been going down. Seventeen thousand bushels of wheat would have paid the President his salary (\$25,000) in 1873; it now takes one hundred thousand bushels of wheat to pay his salary of \$50,000.

During the course of the supper COIN remarked : "A government of the people, for the people, and by the people is passing away, and a government of the arist-



THEN AND NOW—1873 AND 1895.

tocracy is dawning ; in fact has come. Will it be permitted to stay ? That is the question ! The American

people are now face to face with this grave issue! How will they act? *That*, is the problem!"

As they were rising from the table Mr. John J. McGrath, an official of the Civic Federation society came up and shook hands with COIN, introducing himself, and commented at some length on what that association was doing to elevate the morals of Chicago.

The society referred to is organized after the same plan and is using the methods adopted by the Lexow Committee of New York City. They both have for their object the investigation and correction of political corruption. COIN told the visitor that the action of his association was worthy of commendation. That societies for similar purposes and for charitable purposes had existed at all times, and would continue to be a necessity for all time, till the cause was removed. Then, introducing the caller to his companion and at the same time bidding him good-day, the boys returned to COIN'S room, where a moment later the little financier and Statesman bade his new friend good-by as the latter departed for his home.

The next morning at eight o'clock in company with his friend Schuyler, COIN left Chicago on board the private steam yacht Hinda, belonging to Mr. Owen F. Aldis, which he had placed at the disposal of the little Statesman, for the hunting grounds lying to the north of Lake Michigan. It was a beautiful morning and the yacht sped rapidly north over the mirrored surface of the lake. The little fellow stood upon the quarter-deck in a quiet and thoughtful mood, taking the fresh air into his lungs and looking out upon the broad expanse of waters.

He turned and looked back at the vanishing city that had been the scene of his wonderful school, where he

had set in motion the educational activity of the nation, and as he looked this sentence escaped from his half parted lips :

“Chicago, the creation of the restless energy of the pioneers of the West, the business heart of a nation—yet a heart the great beat of which is pulsating with an ebbing throb as the life blood of commerce is drank up by the financial vampires of the world.”

CHAPTER V.

UP TO DATE.

With COIN's departure from Chicago, began a general discussion of the financial subject. Prior to his advent to the World's Fair city it had been discussed but very little. The bimetallists had been apparently in a hopeless minority. The monometallists with all the powerful influence that unreasoning prejudice could arouse, had frowned down all encouragement to the friends of silver. That a subtle influence had manufactured and engineered the movement culminating in such a feeling, had not occurred to many who had joined in "the hue and cry" that had been raised against the money of Washington and Jefferson.

So great had that feeling become at one time, the members of a National Silver Convention held in Chicago in 1893 were snubbed, and many of them made to feel as if they were surrounded by an inhospitable atmosphere. The management of Central Music Hall, where the Convention met, offered the first of several open insults by refusing to open the doors till the hall was paid for. The treasurer of the committee was on his way from his hotel in the city to the place of meeting at the time when several hundred delegates were in the rotunda clamoring for admission. An exciting colloquy ensued between the manager on the one side

and ex-Senator Hill of Colorado, Governor Prince of New Mexico, W. J. Cheyney of Philadelphia, and other prominent men, representing those seeking access to the hall. On learning what was demanded, ex-Congressman Symes, a man who has since died leaving an estate worth \$600,000, wrote his check for the amount, and this was refused because it was not certified. In the meantime the treasurer of the committee arrived, paid the rent and apologized to the distinguished gentlemen present for the conduct of the manager of the hall. This is but an incident showing how the unreasoning sway of the money power had moved the people.

Now all things were different. As if by the touch of the magician's wand, a change had come over the people of Chicago. The lectures of the little Statesman, with the illustrations he had used, had been published in a book. This book had placed the lectures in attractive and durable form before the people, and instead of the effect dying out, as would have been the case from their publication in the newspapers alone, they became more permanent and convincing. For a time, however, amidst the rush of business, with new topics absorbing attention, the effect of the lectures was not so noticeable. But it was only seemingly. The book in the meantime had been at work. It was reasoning with and appealing to the intellect of the people, and to their patriotism.

It began to be discussed. The predictions made by the little lecturer were being verified. Continued depression existed. The monometallists had made the prediction, when the silver purchase act was repealed, that business would be revived and the country would assume its normal condition. Instead of this prediction being fulfilled, it was succeeded by violent manifesta-

tions of general distress among the people. The movement of roving bands and armies of hungry and unemployed men came first, and was in progress at the time the little financier had delivered his lectures. The monometallists had then assured the people that the country only waited the settlement of the tariff question then being discussed by Congress, to return to a prosperous condition. The tariff question had been settled in August and Congress adjourned, but still that same stagnation of commerce continued to exist; riots and strikes gave evidence of the continued distress and growing restlessness among the laboring classes; gold continued to flow abroad in an increasing amount, as COIN had predicted it would under a gold standard, and the prices of manufactured articles and products continued to decline.

These unfulfilled promises of the monometallists were now remembered by the people, and a fresh interest was suddenly revived in the lectures of the little financier. It was discovered, and the fact given publicity, that the "money experts" had studied and examined carefully the statements and statistics given in the lectures, and not a loophole or embrasure in its fortress of facts had been discovered.

Prominent men of ability had been at first amused, then interested, and next absorbed in the book's perusal. They had read, re-read, and read again. Then came a feeling of conviction. Their patriotism was next aroused. They met and discussed it; listened to the report of experts and critics whom they had engaged to search for errors and contradictions, and then acted.

First one at a time, and then in twos and threes the people went to the public libraries to examine the files of newspapers published in February 1873, to see if the statements made by COIN were true as to the secret

demonetization of silver. Their search had confirmed his statement. Not a word was to be found in the newspapers of that month or the year 1873 that would even indicate that the editors or the readers of these newspapers knew that silver had been demonetized. That its demonetization had been secret, was thus demonstrated beyond a doubt.

And as these people looking for information on this topic followed up the subject in the newspaper files they found that it was only when the time was fast approaching for resumption of specie payments that the deadly work of 1873 was discovered.

On the 14th day of December 1894, the *Inter Ocean* indorsed editorially the lectures; advertised the book for sale and called the attention of the business men of Chicago and its readers generally to its logic and truths. No newspaper in the West has so large a circulation as the *Inter Ocean*, especially the weekly, and the circulation of the book now increased rapidly. Each day the mail orders of the *Inter Ocean* swept the country from Florida to Oregon. A great metropolitan journal was actively enlisted now on the side of bimetallism and tens of thousands in a few weeks had read an account of the intellectual contest that had taken place in the Art Institute between the little Champion of the people and the bankers and representative men of Chicago.

Thousands of favorable opinions poured in and a patriotic feeling was aroused wherever the book containing the lectures circulated. The people of Chicago, by reason of COIN's logical analysis of the situation and the continued depression, were now almost unanimously discussing the subject. So great was the interest taken that the Board of Trade on dull days—and there were many of them—found itself by common consent adjourned,

while the members gathered in groups and argued with any one who might dispute the position taken by the little financier. On one occasion in February the reporter



HE READS COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL.

of the wheat pit announced the opening of the session, and then began solemnly to read one of COIN's lectures.

This was the situation and the condition of business in Chicago, with confusion in Congress and general

uneasiness and alarm throughout the country, when COIN returned to the metropolis of the West on Monday, March 4, 1895.

His arrival was chronicled in all the daily papers, and hosts of friends called to see him. He was solicited to extend an opportunity for questions to be asked and answered. He was informed that new objections had been raised which if answered satisfactorily might add to the number of people who were now daily coming over to the side of bimetallism. Newspaper reporters were eager for interviews, and published lengthy reports of scenes and incidents connected with the return of the little bimetallist to the city of his past triumphs.

COIN consented to the program desired, and fixed the following Thursday as the time. It was arranged that the reception should take place in the large parlor of the Palmer House, where the little Statesman was stopping, and that he would receive only those who had questions to ask, representatives of the press, and a limited number of others who might wish to listen to what was said.

THE RECEPTION.

The day for the reception had arrived. In the minds of many it had been looked forward to as promising an intellectual combat, for it developed the same evening after the arrangement was made that the greatest money experts in the United States were to be pitted against COIN. This was a movement on the part of some single gold standard advocates, headed by Mr. Franklin H. Head, of the American Trust and Savings Bank.

Mr. Head is a man to whom the word "foxy" might be appropriately applied. In the early part of the year 1894, he had organized what he termed an "Interna-

tional Bimetallic Association," in Chicago. By winking first one eye and then the other, he secured the signatures of about all the bankers in Chicago to his articles of association, and then he went to the agents of the Associated Press and United Press, and gave them the "news." That night the wires conveyed to the country the particulars of this great movement organized in Chicago, gave a long list of names of the prominent men connected therewith, and stated that a national meeting would soon be called, and later an international convention of commercial and business men under the invitation of these prominent Chicago "international bimetallists."

Mr. Head then returned to his office satisfied that he had done the right thing to lull the "bimetallists" and "silver men" into repose for the next six months. It is scarcely necessary to add that no meeting of a committee or members of the association of these Chicago "international bimetallists" ever occurred.

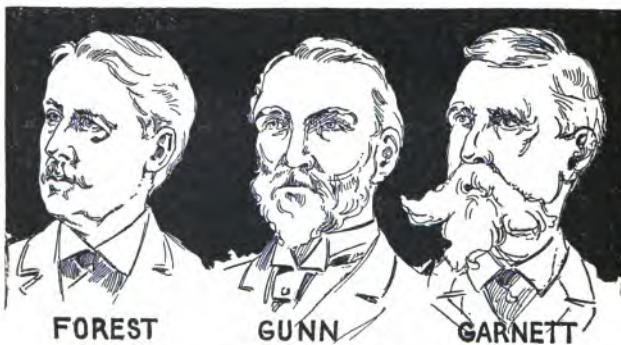
Now Mr. Head had come out from ambush and was going to make an open fight.

He immediately wired Mr. Louis A. Garnett of San Francisco, at the Fifth Avenue hotel in New York City, where the latter was at the time, and arranged with him to come at once to Chicago. Mr. Garnett had for years been connected with the United States mint, was a monometallist and avowed advocate of the single gold standard. He was regarded by Mr. Head as the ablest expert living on that side of the question, and a recent article by him in the January number of *The Forum* had attracted general attention.

Mr. Garnett had arrived in the city the evening previous to the day of the reception, and was met in his room at the Grand Pacific Hotel by two other distin-

guished money experts who held to the same views as the Californian.

One of the men referred to was Otis B. Gunn of Kansas City, and the other was Colonel J. K. C. Forest of Chicago. The former had delivered a carefully prepared address in 1894 before the Commercial Club of Kansas City on the "Monetary Question," and it had been printed in pamphlet form and liberally distributed by the bankers and money-lenders of that city throughout the country. The latter was a financial writer of prominence and usually wrote over the *nom de plume* of "Now or Never." They were all men of pronounced ability,



Three of the hardest heads in the United States.

and so constituted by nature that if set wrong would hold tenaciously to the views adopted. It might truthfully be said that here was a trio of the hardest heads in the United States. All three were anxious for a tilt at the little Champion of the people and of the people's money.

It was agreed between them that they would all take a hand in the contest, and otherwise the program was left as occasion might suggest.

The reception attracted many times the number that it was possible to admit to the room, and Mr. Charles Spencer, a friend of COIN's, was placed in charge, who appointed doorkeepers and otherwise had control of the arrangements.

Mr. Spencer conferred with those desiring to take part in the day's discussion and then with COIN, and it was arranged that the little Statesman would first receive the class of political economy from the Chicago University who were present and anxious to ask questions and present their views, and that he would next give audience to the "Committee of Experts," Mr. Garnett, Mr. Gunn and Colonel Forest.

THE CLASS ON POLITICAL ECONOMY.

So it happened that when the doors were thrown open the class on political economy of the Chicago University came first into the room. It was followed by others till the room was crowded.

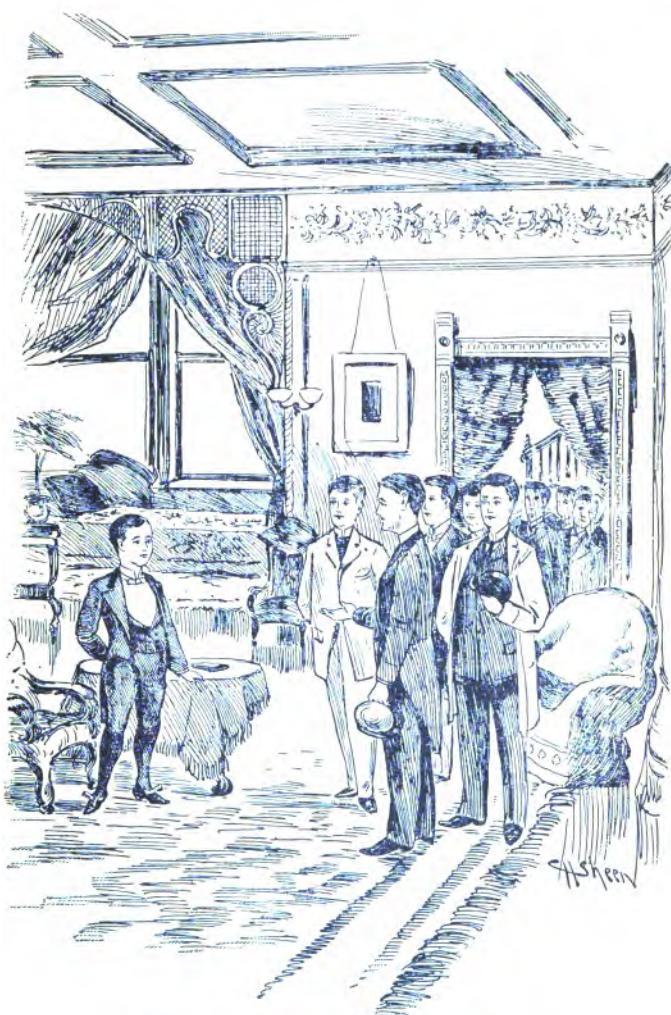
Mr. C. Townsend, the manager of the hotel, who was taking a great interest in the meeting, saw at a glance that something had been neglected, and a few moments later had a small platform placed at the end of the room where COIN stood, and it was soon neatly carpeted.

This raised the little financier sufficiently to make more attractive the subsequent proceedings than they otherwise would have been. Tables were there for the newspaper reporters, and Miss Josie Hix acted as official stenographer. Fred Wendling was there too, and much pleased at COIN's return.

The college class had selected a committee from their number to present the questions they wished asked. This committee was composed as follows : Mr. George H.

Shibley, 6128 Lexington avenue; Mr. Fred D. Porter, 5470 Jefferson avenue; Mr. J. W. Freese, 231 South Leavitt street, Chicago, and Mr. G. H. R. Plumb of Glencoe, Ill. Mr. Shibley, the first named, was chairman of the committee.

It was 9:30 A. M. when COIN rapped on the table for order and announced that the University class would be the first heard.



COIN RECEIVING THE STUDENTS.

CHAPTER VI.

COIN AND THE STUDENTS.

The University students had front seats, and immediately behind them were the "three experts." Mr. Shibley now rose, and referring to a memorandum in his hand, stated that his class would like to know what objection there was to what was known as the "Baltimore plan," or "Bankers' plan?"

"The first objection," said COIN, "is that it is based on gold, and any objection to a gold standard is at the same time an objection to the 'bankers' plan.'"

"What other objection is there to it?" asked Mr. Shibley.

When this question was put, COIN turned and walked slowly to and fro on the platform with his hands behind him. The expression on his face was firm, and his manner seemed to be that of one quiet yet aroused. It was thus that the question appeared to affect him. He now stopped and faced his questioner, and as he replied he at times spoke as if speaking to the class, and again as if speaking to the others present.

"The 'bankers' plan,'" he began, "as first proposed at their Chicago meeting in 1893, promulgated from their Baltimore Convention in 1894, and differing at times since then in detail, but never in principle, was presented to Congress in the report of Mr. Eckels, the

Comptroller of the Treasury, himself a banker. In answering your question I will take the report of Mr. Eckels as the basis :

" This plan proposes that the government loan the bankers indefinitely the use of money to the amount of one-half their capital stock, secured by a first lien upon their assets, upon the payment of a charge of two per cent the first year and one-half of one per cent annually thereafter until the annual charge of one-half of one per cent added to the original two per cent shall amount to five per cent, and thereafter this charge is to be suspended, to be resumed whenever the Comptroller of the currency shall deem it necessary, but in no event to be more than one-half of one per cent in any one year. The money thus loaned to the bankers is issued by the government and to be redeemed by the government. It is further proposed that an additional sum equal to twenty-five per cent of their capital stock be loaned them by the government on an additional charge (not stated), to be known as an emergency fund. This money in the hands of the bankers to be free from taxation. This is the 'bankers' plan.'

" What this means is : A bank under such law could borrow from the government at its pleasure money to the amount of fifty per cent of its paid-up unimpaired capital stock, and for the use thereof would pay to the government the first year two per cent interest, and after the first year one-half of one per cent interest, until the aggregate interest amounted to five per cent, and thereafter, unless called upon by the Comptroller, for not to exceed one-half of one per cent per annum, would use money without the payment of any interest or charge whatsoever. Two per cent the first year, and one-half of one per cent for six years would make the five per

cent, or an annual interest for seven years of five-sevenths of one per cent. If nothing were paid after the seven years as is contemplated by the bill, in twenty years they would have paid five per cent only, or an annual average rate of one-fourth of one per cent, or at most an annual average rate of about one-half of one per cent, for money which they are to have the use of to loan to you and me at from seven to twelve per cent per annum. This is the 'bankers' plan.'

"The government issues the money, guarantees it, and stands ready to redeem it. The government makes it money. The bankers do nothing toward creating it, but stand ready as middlemen asking for the exclusive special privilege of borrowing this money at a nominal rate. This is the 'bankers' plan.'

"This five per cent in seven years (and possibly nothing thereafter) is not conceded by them as a profit to the government. It is intended as a guaranty fund to secure the government against loss by the failure of insolvent banks to return the money borrowed. The government is expected to pay out this five per cent. There is to be no profit to the government. The lender (in this case the government) is to make nothing. The borrower is to make it all. This is the 'bankers' plan.'"

[Laughter and applause.]

AN OBJECT-LESSON IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

COIN then stepped down to the reporters' table and getting some paper returned and sat down at the little table on the platform. He wrote rapidly for a moment with his lead pencil on the paper he had gotten, and then rising said:

"This loan by the government to a bank, put in

the form of a note, would read in substance as follows :

“ ‘ WASHINGTON, D. C.

“ Ninety-nine years after date the undersigned promises to pay to the United States of America the sum of Dollars, with interest at the rate of two per cent the first year, and one-half of one per cent for the next six consecutive years, and no interest thereafter unless the said interest above provided for, together with like interest on similar notes, is not sufficient to pay losses incurred by the government by reason of bankrupted banks, and in that event not to exceed one-half of one per cent in any one year. Value received in money this day, borrowed from the government. This note is payable in similar money as that borrowed, or in any other lawfully issued money of the government, and is secured by a first lien on the assets of the bank. [Great laughter and applause.]

“ Here is the form of the note you would be required to give when you wanted to borrow any of this same money :

CHICAGO, ILL.

“ Ninety days after date I promise to pay to the order of Bank the sum of Dollars in *gold coin* of the United States of America, of present weight and fineness, with interest, after maturity, at the rate of seven per cent per annum. Payable, when due, at the said Bank, with ten per cent attorney's fees to be added if placed in the hands of a lawyer for collection. [Renewed laughter and applause.]

“ The interest for the ninety days,” COIN continued, “ would be deducted in advance from the money loaned. If it were a stockholder of the bank loaning this money for his private account, on a first mortgage security, in addition to the gold clause, it would be a judgment note, and would draw anywhere from six to twelve per cent interest. This is the ‘ bankers’ plan. [Great laughter.]

COIN paused until the confusion caused by what he had said had subsided and then continued : "The President proposes thirty per cent deposit of greenbacks by the bankers with the government, five per cent of this to be the five per cent I have heretofore referred to, and twenty-five per cent as a further guaranty fund, to be withdrawn by the bankers upon the surrender of the money borrowed, and as against this the banker to have an amount equal to seventy-five per cent instead of fifty per cent of his capital stock. A shrewd proposition, which, when unmasked, means that the extra twenty-five per cent deposited is for the retirement of our greenback issue, the only legal tender paper money we have, and the substitution of national bank notes therefor, and is additional to the fifty per cent heretofore discussed.

"Secretary Carlisle amends the Baltimore plan by suggesting that the government does not redeem this money, but that each bank shall itself redeem the money issued to it. This means suspicion thrown on the money to start with, and a copy of Bradstreet or Dun in your pocket, giving the rating of the four or five thousand banks in the country, with a list of the broken ones up to date, and a careful reading of each bill received."

By this time the University class had become greatly interested, but the laughter and applause on the part of the audience puncturing the clear cut statements of the little financier, had a different effect on the respective members of the class. The impression was favorable and, from their manner, conclusive with most of the students, for they had joined in the applause. But not so with all the members of the class committee.

Mr. Freese had a habit on nearly all occasions when engaged in argument of shaking his head. It was hard to tell what he meant by it, as it did not always mean

that he dissented from the views expressed ; it as often with him, meant the reverse, but it left one in doubt as to what he did think. He was now shaking his head.

The chairman, Mr. Shibley, was an avowed monometallist and had several times expressed his intention of writing a treatise in favor of the gold standard. He was the logical production of the training he had received. His preceptor was Professor Laughlin. He was combative in his nature and would struggle to the last even though he felt himself in the wrong. If conversion or a change of views came to him it would be when he was alone, never at a time when discussing the point itself.

He saw no way to answer COIN; in fact there was no answer, but he sought to find a way around it.

"Is not this privilege open to all alike?" he asked.

"Yes," replied COIN, "but it is only the rich that can take advantage of it. It is not a benefaction which any one can have the advantage of. All men are not by nature bankers."

"It is proposed," said Mr. Shibley, "to change that proposition by requiring in the place of 'assets' government bonds to be deposited to get this money from the government, and allowing the banks to draw currency to the full amount instead of 90 per cent as at present. Would not that be ample security and remove *some* of the objections you make?"

"The security would be better," was the reply, "but the pernicious principle remains. A special favor conferred on a few, to enrich by legislation that few, still remains the dominant spirit of the system proposed." [] ✓

"The situation is this," continued COIN. And as he said this he held up his right hand, with the ends of the thumb and forefinger together, as if he would con-

centrate the minds of his auditors on what he was about to say.

"Suppose a business man were to walk into one of the banks here in Chicago and say to the cashier—'Here



Uncle Sam—“IT WON’T WORK WITHOUT A NEW WHEEL.”

is a government bond for \$1,000. I will leave this bond here with you as security, if you will loan me \$1,000 for ninety days at the rate of *one half of one per cent per*

annum and agree to pay over to me promptly the interest that will fall due on this bond in the meantime.' If such a proposition were made to a bank cashier, he would either drop dead, or would have the man making such a proposition arrested for insanity. [Laughter and applause.]

"And yet," continued the little Statesman, "this is the proposition the bankers are making to the government, and ask that it be declared free from taxation. In fact," he concluded, "it is the method by which they now get their national bank notes, to the amount of 90 per cent of the bonds they deposit; in the new proposition they are asking for 100 per cent and the retirement of the greenbacks and United States treasury notes."

Mr. Shibley was staggered. He had not seen the matter in this light before. He acted when COIN concluded as a man does whose head is "swimming."

Mr. Porter of the committee rose and stood beside Mr. Shibley, and in a quiet, thoughtful manner, as was his custom, asked this question:

"Why do the bankers want the greenbacks and treasury notes retired?"

"To the extent that these are in circulation," said COIN, "they occupy the field that national bank notes would fill. The bankers can get the national bank notes for nothing, or comparatively nothing, but they cannot get the others without giving up something for them as you or I would have to do. For this reason they wish to get them out of the way and substitute for them national bank notes."

Again there was laughter and applause, but COIN did not seem to partake of the merriment or boisterous feeling. His face reflected a sentiment as if the subject was

too serious for any expression but grave consideration. He had seen this band of selfish men standing shoulder to shoulder until they had about ruined his country and it had impressed him deeply.

Mr. Freese now rose and said that he had noted what the little financier had said in his lectures about greenbacks in his answers to questions asked by Mr. Ridgeley, and then added, that he would like to know if there were more than the one theory known as the "greenback theory."

"Yes," replied COIN. "One, we have already discussed. The other, is the proposition advanced, that whatever our redemption money may be, all paper money shall be 'greenbacks,' money issued direct by the government, a legal tender in the payment of all debts, and differing in no respect as to its rights from silver and gold, except that it may be redeemable when demanded, in our coin or redemption money. Hence there are two 'schools' of greenbackers," he concluded. And then added, "The last named 'school' is now very numerous."

Mr. Shibley now stated that it was proposed that the government should cease to redeem national bank notes with gold and that the banks themselves should redeem these notes in gold coin, and wanted to know if this would not stop the run on the gold reserve?

"This proposition," replied COIN, "like the numerous makeshifts, that have been, and are still being suggested, is but the natural result of an attempt to remedy an erroneous system by committing more errors. To substitute for the government, the banks as 'redeemers' of our credit money, and that redemption to take place in gold, is but pulling one foot out of the quicksand while putting the other in. It means that the run on the government will stop, and a run on the banks will begin. It

is trading off a responsible guarantor for in many instances irresponsible guarantors. There is not enough gold in the country to redeem the quantity of credit money, by probably \$800,000,000, and it makes no difference who seeks to maintain the quantity of credit money (about \$1,200,000,000) by the proportionately small quantity of redemption money, gold, (now about \$400,000,000 or less), the undertaking will fail.

Mr. Plumb of the College committee now came forward with a question. He had been having as it were a mental wrestle with himself, and was rapidly coming over to COIN's views. But this was not known to any one but himself.

"In your last day's lecture, delivered last May (1894)," said Mr. Plumb, "you stated that all the gold would eventually leave this country if we continued to try to enforce the gold standard. The settlement of the tariff question since your lectures, and the continued shipment of gold abroad since then, with two large loans made in the meantime, followed by a depletion of the treasury in each instance, has caused me recently to attach more importance to other things you then said. You had left facts and had indulged in prophecy. It has turned out so differently from the prophecies made by the monometallists. They have forecast prosperity to follow each of their accomplishments, and the country has failed to realize on any of their promises."

Mr. Plumb was getting sentimental, but as COIN did not stop him, he continued: "I can see now that you were reasoning by induction, and when one so reasons, if his premises be right, he can always tell what will happen in the future. I want to ask you how long it will be before there is no gold left in this country under the present gold policy?"

"Take \$250,000,000 as about the correct estimate of our gold interest annually due abroad," said COIN replying to this question that sought to forecast the future, "and deduct from this amount our gold production in the United States and the excess of our exports over our imports whatever that may be in the future, and divide the result you get into the quantity of gold in this country and the remainder will be the number of years required to consume it all."

"It has been charged," said Mr. Plumb, "that foreign silver has been coming here to buy gold, is there anything in that?"

"There is no truth in the statement," replied COIN. "The report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics shows that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, our exports of silver exceeded our imports of silver by \$15,544,067. During the same year our exports of gold was \$87,000,000. This silver settled 15 million dollars in our foreign exchange and aided us in holding back that much gold that otherwise would have had to go. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, \$17,000,000. We have exported silver instead of importing it. They are getting our silver and fixing the price on it payable in their gold."

"I now want to know," said Mr. Plumb, "what truth there is in the statement that our securities are being sold by foreign investors and the money withdrawn from this country for fear of our going to a silver basis, as has been stated?"

"That is also an erroneous statement," said COIN. "There are individual instances, no doubt, but not sufficient in amount to affect the aggregate amount invested. In fact, English investors do not intend to withdraw from this country, but they intend under a gold standard

to own it. They now own palatial buildings here in your city. They own a controlling interest in many of the metropolitan newspapers in this country. They own our breweries. They own most of our insurance and investment companies. Viscount Scully, of England, owns 3,000,000 acres of land in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Three million acres in Texas belongs to a syndicate in London composed of Baroness Burdette-Coutts, Earl Cadogan, H. C. Fitzroy Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, William Alexander Lochiel Stephen Douglas-Hamilton, Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Rutland, and Ethel Cadogan, Maid-in-waiting to the Queen. This is known in London as the Texas Land Syndicate No. 3, and owns whole counties in the state of Texas. There are two other English land syndicates owning land in Texas.

COIN had taken a little note-book from his pocket and was now getting his names and figures from it and he continued to read from this memorandum as follows:

"Sir Edward Reid—2,000,000 acres. This is a syndicate which owns lands in Florida only. It includes the present Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Randolph Churchill and Lady Lister-Kaye.

"Viscount Scully—3,000,000 acres. His lordship maintains an elaborate system of bailiffs.

"Syndicate No. 4.—1,800,000 acres. This syndicate has all its holdings in Mississippi. It includes the Marquis of Dalhousie, George Henry Howard Cholmondeley (Viscount Cholmondeley), Georgiana Viscountess Cross; the Hon. Lady Hamilton Gordon and the Hon. Lady Biddulph.

"Marquis of Tweedale—1,750,000 acres. The marquis is William Montagn Hay, famed all over Scotland as the rack-rent landlord.

"Philipps, Marshall & Co., London—1,300,000 acres.
This firm has the whole peerage for its clients.

"The Anglo-American Syndicate, London—750,000 acres. The funds of widowed peeresses are largely invested here. The lands are in the South and West.



SOME OF OUR TITLED LANDLORDS.

"Bryan H. Evans—700,000 acres. Mr. Evans resides in London. His lands are in Mississippi.

"The Duke of Sutherland—125,000 acres. This is the rack-rent nobleman of police-court fame.

"The British Land Company—320,000 acres. This land is all in Kansas.

"William Whalley—310,000 acres. Mr. Whalley is the squire of Peterboro, England.

"The Missouri Land Company—300,000 acres. This operates a Missouri domain and has headquarters at Edinburgh.

"Robert Tennant—230,000 acres. This is all farming land. Mr. Tennant lives in London.

"Dundee Land Company—247,000 acres.

"Lord Dunmore—120,000 acres.

"Benjamin Newgas, Liverpool—100,000 acres.

"Lord Houghton (in Florida)—60,000 acres.

"Lord Dunraven (in Colorado)—60,000 acres.

"English Land Company (in California)—50,000 acres.

"English Land Company (in Arkansas)—50,000 acres.

"Alexander Grant, London—35,000 acres in Kansas.

"Syndicate No. 6—110,000 acres. This syndicate includes the Earl of Vemlam and the Earl of Lankeville. The land is in Wisconsin.

"M. Elfenhauser of Halifax—600,000 acres. The land is in West Virginia.

"Syndicate No. 7—50,000 acres. This is a Scotch concern and its land is in Florida.

"It is claimed that fully 20,000,000 acres of American land are thus owned by great landowners in England and Scotland. This does not include the Holland syndicate, which owns 5,000,000 acres of grazing land in Western states, nor the German syndicate owning 2,000,000 acres in various states."

As he had begun reading this list of English landlords in America, he had said something to Fred Wend-

ling, who immediately left the room. Fred now returned with a roll in his hand which he handed to COIN. It was something the little fellow had sent Fred for to his room.

He now unrolled it, and as he did so he explained that it was a chart made by his agent in London showing the location of land in this country owned by the nobility of England, and that the dark spots indicated



*Cut showing the location of land in the United States
owned by titled foreigners.*

the location of the lands referred to. The chart is reproduced in this book reduced in size sufficiently to permit of its appearance herein.

COIN continuing said :

" Let there be no question as to the truthfulness of any statement that I may make to you. In the *Evening*

News of this city, of January 29 last, you will find most of the names and figures that I have given you, with much information as to how these lands are managed. The map I have shown you with the location of these lands is approximately correct. The number of acres and the names I have given you are absolutely correct.

"No," he again continued, "they have not ceased to invest in this country. They rely on the gold standard to weaken us, to destroy our intelligence and independence, to take away our prosperity, and to own us. They expect to cultivate among us a 'tory' element, that will advocate their views, that will be their allies and who will assist in shackling our citizens, so as to make easy of accomplishment their final victory."

The little fellow paused. His eyes were blazing. So were those of many of his auditors. He was calm and clear of mind, but the spirit of Washington, and Jefferson and Jackson was there. The spirit that had sought refuge on these shores from foreign oppression lived in him again.

"There is an instinct of treachery in an animal known as the panther," he began again, "that causes it to lure its human prey to its side by uttering a cry in imitation of a child in distress. That instinct of this animal and that cry intended to deceive, is repeated again by the usurer in this country when he says that English investors are selling their American securities and taking gold away from us, for fear of its insecurity. They would lull you to repose and to poverty till resistance is attempted too late. (Applause.)

"These 'foreign investors' who have been buying up this country ever since they were aided by the gradual establishment of a single gold standard never felt more encouraged than at the present time.

"They have just closed what was intended to be a secret contract with the administration at Washington for its last issue of bonds, and have bound us in an option for all bonds we may issue for the next six months.



"LET THE INFAMOUS THING LIVE IN HISTORY."

Does that look as if they were afraid of our securities?

"That this infamous contract may live in history, I will hand a copy of it to the stenographer."

And as COIN said this he stepped down to the reporter's table and handed it to Miss Hix, and, as he stood there, said :

"Let it be preserved in every log-cabin and farmhouse in this land as a warning to them that they must now defend their homes or lose them soon, forever."

The contract was not read. It was not necessary then, as it had just been brought to light by a committee of Congress, against the protest of the administration—had been published in all the daily papers and had been read by every one present. It is here reproduced and reads as follows :

This agreement, entered into this 8th day of February, 1895, between the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, of the first part, and Messrs. August Belmont & Co., of New York, on behalf of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, of London, England, and themselves, and Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., of London, and themselves, parties of the second part, witnesseth :

WHEREAS, It is provided by the revised statutes of the United States, section 3,700, that the Secretary of the Treasury may purchase coin with any of the bonds or notes of the United States authorized by law at such rate and upon such terms as he may deem most advantageous to the public interests, and the Secretary of the Treasury now deems that an emergency exists in which the public interests require that as hereinafter provided coin shall be purchased with the bonds of the United States of the description hereinafter mentioned, authorized to be issued under the act entitled, "an act to provide for the resumption of specie payments," approved Jan. 14, 1875, being bonds of the United States described in an act of Congress approved July 14, 1870, entitled "an act to authorize the refunding of the national debt."

Now, therefore, the said parties of the second part hereby agree to sell and deliver to the United States 3,500,000 ounces of standard gold coin of the United States at the rate of \$17.80441 per ounce, payable in

United States 4 per cent thirty-year coupon or registered bonds, said bonds to be dated Feb. 1, 1895, and payable at the pleasure of the United States after thirty years from date issued under the acts of Congress of July 14, 1870, Jan. 20, 1871, and Jan. 14, 1875, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, payable quartery.

First—Such purchase and sale of gold coin being made on the following conditions :

1. At least one-half of all coin delivered hereinunder shall be obtained in, and shipped from Europe, but the shipment shall not be required to exceed 500,000 ounces per month, unless the parties of the second part shall consent thereto.

2. All deliveries shall be made at any of the sub-treasuries or at any other legal depository of the United States.

3. All gold coins delivered shall be secured on the basis of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of standard gold per dollar, if within limit of tolerance.

4. Bonds delivered under this contract are to be delivered free of accrued interest ; which is to be assumed and paid by the parties of the second part at the time of their delivery to them.

Second—Should the Secretary of the Treasury desire to offer or sell any of the bonds of the United States on or before the first of October, 1895, he *shall* first offer the same to the parties of the second part ; but thereafter he shall be free from every such obligation to the parties of the second part.

Third—The Secretary of the Treasury hereby reserves the right within ten days from the date, in case he shall receive authority from Congress therefor, to substitute any bonds of the United States bearing 3 per cent interest, of which the principal and interest shall be specifically payable in United States gold coin of the present weight and fineness, for the bonds herein alluded to ; such 3 per cent bond to be accepted by the parties of the second part at par, *i. e.*, at \$18.60465 per ounce of standard gold.

Fourth—No bonds shall be delivered to the parties of the second part or either of them except in payment for coin from time to time received hereunder, whereupon the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States shall



and will deliver the bonds as herein provided at such places as shall be designated by the parties of the second part. Any expense of delivery out of the United States shall be assumed and paid by the parties of the second part.

Fifth—In consideration of the purchase of such coin the parties of the second part and their associates hereunder assume and will bear all the expense and inevitable loss of bringing gold from Europe hereunder, and as far as lies in their power will exert all financial influence and will make all legitimate efforts to protect the treasury of the United States against withdrawals of gold pending the complete performance of this contract.

In witness thereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands in five parts this 8th day of February, 1895.

J. G. CARLISLE,

Secretary of the Treasury.

AUGUST BELMONT & Co.,

On behalf of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, London, and themselves,

J. G. MORGAN & Co.,

On behalf of Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co., London, and themselves.

Attest: W. E. CURTIS, FRANCIS LINDE STETSON.

"These bonds were purchased," said the little financier "by the London syndicate at \$1.04 and sold within ten days thereafter at \$1.18—a net profit of about eight million dollars!"

COIN had returned to the platform and indicated that he had finished his answer to the last question.

No one appeared ready to ask another question. He had given facts that had startled them. A savage, sullen, yet patriotic expression was on the faces of every one in the room, except a few bankers and the "three experts."

The University class were now nearly all brought over to COIN's views. But they had some questions yet to ask that had been agreed on before they came, and Mr. Shibley, who had not yet acknowledged allegiance to the cause of the little American, referred again to his memorandum and proceeded to put these questions. For brevity they are reproduced without comment together with the answers.

CHAPTER VII.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Question. "Five years before resumption of specie payment January 1, 1879, silver and gold were not in use and yet prices were declining. How is this accounted for?"

Answer. "By the act of 1870 the redemption of our paper money in coin was declared to be the status of our paper money in our currency, and it thereafter assumed a relative position in the market to silver and gold bullion. The decline of the price of silver bullion and the contraction of the paper currency caused the decline in values. Over-confidence and the abnormal increase of credits, as explained on pages 55 to 64 of my 'School,' caused the panic of 1873.'"

Q. "With bimetallism in operation who should hold the option as to which metal, silver or gold, should be paid in redemption of credit money, the government or the holder of the note or token money?"

A. "The government. A perfect system of bimetallism cannot be operated otherwise. The fact that the government has this option and exercises it when it wants to do so, prevents any one from having a specific or selfish interest in appreciating the value of either metal. If paid out at the option of the '*holder*,' it affords an opportunity for money-changers and brokers to

organize for a systematic raid on one of the metals. The government can accommodate its disbursements to the necessities and convenience of trade, but holds the power to resist raids and conspiracies against its credit. The more the government favors one metal, the more it can appreciate the exchangeable value of that metal, and the more it disfavors one of the metals, the more it thereby depreciates the exchangeable value of that metal. It can, by thus holding the option, favor the weaker of the two and bring it back to parity when inclined to be less in exchangeable value with the other metal. It can in the same manner disfavor the stronger of the two metals when it inclines to appreciate when measured by its exchangeable value in the other metal. But it (the government) would lose its power over the metals if it surrendered this option to private parties. Under free and unlimited coinage the variation would be slight, but the fact that the government holds that option prevents an entering wedge from being driven between the metals. It will need *all* the exercise of that power for the *first* year when we again enter on bimetallism."

 Q. "How would reduction in size of gold coin affect contracts and notes now outstanding?"

A. "Notes, bonds, mortgages and contracts payable in *dollars*, are payable in whatever is the dollar of account at the time payment is tendered, and if the gold dollar were reduced in size, the new dollars would be legal payment of debts contracted before that time calling for dollars. Where the note, bond or contract calls for 'gold dollars of the *present weight and fineness*,' as many of them now do, it is claimed that this makes them fall within the constitutional provision that says, 'no law shall be passed that violates the obligations of con-

tracts.' But this clause of the Constitution is not applicable, by reason of another clause in the Constitution that says, 'Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof.' The fixing of the weight and fineness of money in a contract like a franchise to a corporation, is not a vested right, and Congress may provide for a change of weight in the coin and the new dollars will liquidate the former indebtedness. Many contracts in bonds and mortgages have, however, been recently made, calling for *so many ounces of gold*. Dollars are not named. In these instances the Constitution would protect the money-lender, and it would require the adoption of an amendment to or a new constitution to furnish relief, against the appreciation of gold by reason of the unusual demand placed upon it."

Q. "Senator Hill of New York offered in the Senate the other day the following resolution :

"*Resolved* (if the House of Representatives concurs), That it is the sense of Congress that the true policy of the government requires that its efforts should be steadily directed to the establishment of a safe system of bimetallism, wherein gold and silver may be maintained at a parity and every dollar coined may be the equal in value and power of every other dollar coined or issued by the United States, but, if our efforts to establish or maintain such bimetallism shall not be wholly successful and if, for any reason, our silver coin shall not hereafter be at parity with gold coin and the equal thereof in value and power in the market and in the payment of debts, then it is hereby declared that the bonds of the United States now, or hereafter issued, which by their terms are payable in coin, shall nevertheless be paid in standard gold dollars, it being the policy of the United States that its creditors shall at all times be paid in the best money in use.

" Senator Sherman offered a substitute, declaring that

'The policy of the government should be toward maintaining the parity between the two metals, so that every dollar coined should be equal to every other dollar. Should there be any disturbance in the parity, then bonds should be paid in standard gold coin.

"We want to know," said Mr. Shibley, "why this is not a fair and just statement of an existing necessity to sustain the credit of the government?"

A. "A country that discountenances its own money, coined at its own mints and stamped with its own dies, and at the instance of other countries elevates one half of its coin while dragging down the other half, cannot be innocent of the accusation that it has injured its own credit. The statement used by both these senators that the *declared policy of the government should be toward maintaining the parity between the two metals so that every dollar coined should be equal to every other dollar*, is intended to deceive, for they immediately proceed to vote an increase in the demand for gold, and to decrease and discourage the demand for silver, thus widening the breach or lack of parity between the two metals. There can never be a parity between gold and silver, so long as the chain of legislation of the last twenty-one years is pursued. The authorization of gold alone in the bonds of the government as advocated by this brace of senators, would still further appreciate its value and destroy parity still more as between the two metals. There is no such thing as parity between the two metals without equal treatment. Gold has now unlimited free coinage accorded it, while silver has not. That alone is sufficient to forever prevent a parity while such law remains. As long as you increase the demand for one metal, gold, by making bonds call for it alone in payment, and in so doing withdrawing the demand from silver, you cannot hope for a commercial parity.

"These two senators," he continued, "who use words to conceal their meaning, remind me of an ostrich that hides his head in the sand and thinks his whole body is hid. But the people can see them and nearly every schoolboy west of the Alleghanies now understand them." They are wolves in sheep's clothing.

He then added :



TWO WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.

"The Bland-Allison act authorizing notes, contracts, mortgages and bonds to be taken payable in *gold* to the exclusion of all other forms of money, made an increased demand for gold and advanced its exchangeable value with all other property, thus aiding in widening the chasm between the value of the two metals. What

Senator Hill and Senator Sherman now want, is to include United States bonds in the provision of the Bland-Allison act and still further increase the demand for gold. These treacherous men are widening the gap between gold and silver while deceitfully claiming to be trying to close it.

Q. "If the government fixes the price on gold and silver by giving an unlimited demand for them, why not fix the price on other things?"

A. "Whatever the government adopts as money, should be fixed, because it is the interchangeable medium for all other commodities. The government cannot be responsible for individual efforts, but it should be for the purity of the commercial blood."

Q. "Prices were low, very low at times, prior to 1857. We then had free coinage of both silver and gold. Why was this?"

A. Because of the scarcity of both gold and silver. See production of gold and silver of the world as shown on page 26 of my Hand Book prior to that year. The output of gold from the mines of California was largely taken away from us by Europe in settlement of balances by reason of the excess of our imports over exports during the years next following our discovery of gold. For the year 1850 this excess of imports over exports were \$29,138,800; for 1851 \$21,856,170; for 1852 \$40,456,167; for 1853 \$60,287,083; for 1854 \$60,-760,630; for 1855 \$38,890,205. So that rising prices with the influx of precious metals came slowly, but had risen to a commercially healthy condition by 1858-9." As COIN answered this question he read the figures from the reports of the Treasury Department of the United States.

Q. "Silver was largely coined into money after the

'Bland-Allison act' of 1878, and the 'Sherman purchase act of 1890, and yet prices continued to fall. Why was this?"

A. "Because it was treated as credit money and not as primary or redemption money. No quantity of it, thus coined into a discredited money could make it affect prices any more than coining nickel or copper into money similarly treated. Silver has not been treated as primary money since 1873."

Q. "If the government fails to get enough gold to maintain its redemption fund will not the country go at once to a silver basis?"

A. "No. Until silver is recognized as redemption money, we can no more go to a silver basis, than we can to a nickel basis or a copper basis. We will be without a basis, except that everything will be measured in gold, including the currency or medium of exchange that may be used, whatever it may be."

Q. "You have said that our bonds were nearly all payable in gold. Are not our bonds payable in *coin*?"

A. Our national bonds are by the language of the bonds payable in *coin*, but by the construction of law have been construed as payable in gold. Our national bonds, however, are but an item in our bonded indebtedness. Our railroad, corporate, municipal and nearly all private bonds are made by the terms of the contract payable in gold. The Bland-Allison act of 1878 made this legal, and they are not payable other than in gold. It was bonds in a general sense to which I referred. Ninety-five per cent of all the bonds in this country are payable directly in *gold*. The other five per cent are mostly United States bonds payable in *coin*, but are being paid in gold, and payment in gold is being insisted on."

Q. "What is meant by silver and gold being the money of the Constitution?"

A. "The Constitution of the United States provides that no state shall make anything legal tender in the payment of debts except silver and gold. It also provides that Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof. This has been construed to mean that Congress was expected to coin these two metals into money without discrimination and with equal debt-paying power, the only distinction between the two metals to be in 'regulating their value'—in other words the ratio. So that we contend that Congress has interfered with the intent and meaning of the Constitution."

Q. "Do you believe that an international conference will result in fixing a common ratio, and can we look with any reasonable hope for this vexed question being settled in that way?"

A. "No, I do not believe in an international conference, for the reason that no reasonable hope can be expected in that direction. The cause of our suffering comes from our finances—our blood of commerce—having been manipulated by foreign influences. We must place it beyond the power of that influence to tamper with it in the future. If relief can only come through an international conference, then the same disaster that is now upon us can be repeated again at some time in the future. If the consent of monarchies of Europe that are hopelessly in the power of class legislation is necessary to the establishment of a financial policy for this country, then the maintenance of a government by the people in the United States is impracticable and impossible. Financial slavery is the object sought by all wars to enslave a free people, and this result can be obtained by class legislation, principal among which is financial legislation. To admit the necessity of an international conference is to advocate a policy that will ally us with autocracies and

plutocracies of Europe whose mission is the enslavement of the common people of this earth. No permanent relief can come to this country till we declare our financial independence of Europe."] ✓



AN ADVOCATE OF INTERNATIONAL BIMETALLISM.

The chairman of the college committee lowered his memoranda of questions and put impromptu this :

Q. "How then would you settle international balances?"

A. "International balances are not settled by the stamp of the government upon money. It is settled by weight of the metal. We could have a different money than metals as we had from 1861 to 1879 when our business with foreign countries was not disturbed. It is a fallacy to say that an international agreement on coinage is necessary to an international business. The most prosperous business we ever did with the balance of the world was during the time when we used no coin money."

Q. "The *Tribune* of this city and many other papers have assailed your statement, that the act of 1873 took away from silver its legal tender, or debt-paying power, except to the amount of \$5. This is the way you stated it ; they say it is not true and that its legal tender quality was not disturbed by that act ?"

A. "I will read my reply from the act itself," said COIN, as he picked up a copy of a book called 'The Laws of the United States Relating to Loans and Currency,' issued by the Treasury Department, which contains a copy of the act of 1873, and continued, "it is Section 15 of the act and reads as follows." COIN read the section referred to, which was :

"SEC. 15. That the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade-dollar, a half-dollar, or fifty-cent piece, a quarter-dollar, or twenty-five-cent piece, a dime, or ten-cent piece ; and the weight of the trade-dollar shall be four hundred and twenty grains troy ; the weight of the half-dollar shall be twelve grams (grammes) and one-half of a gram, (gramme;) the quarter-dollar and the dime shall be, respectively, one-half and one-fifth of the weight of said half-dollar ; and said coins shall be a legal tender at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding five dollars in any one payment."

While COIN was reading the law, Mr. Joseph Medill, editor of the *Tribune*, was sitting in the audience listen-

ing. When the little financier had finished reading he said :

"The editor who will purposely deceive his readers, when every instinct of patriotism demands that the light of truth should be turned upon this subject which affects the welfare and integrity of a nation, by his own act burns, as with a branding iron, a *damnable* scar upon his reputation and that of his newspaper. In this instance it is a greater crime to falsify, than any act in the decalogue of crimes."

Mr. Medill turned red in the face and said nothing, and it is safe to say that he will make no explanation in his newspaper, but will continue to falsify and misrepresent the truth. He is one of the most despicable characters in American history in his manner of handling this subject.

Q. " You have stated that all the debts in this country corporate, municipal, private and otherwise amounted to about \$40,000,000,000. How do you estimate this? "

A. " Itemized, part official and part estimated, it would be about as follows," and COIN sat down to the table and looked over some books, and read to the official stenographer the following words and figures :

U. S. Census 1890, National Debt.....	\$ 891,960,104
State and Municipal debt (U. S. Census, 1890)	1,135,210,442
Railway bonds on 171,866 miles rail- way, 1892 (Poor's Manual, '93).....	5,463,611,204
The average farm and home debt shown by tabulation of partial returns from counties distributed throughout the Union, is \$1,288 for farm and \$924 for homes. If this average holds good for the United States, there is an ex-	

isting debt in force, on the farms and homes of the United States occupied by owner (R. B. Porter, Supt., 11th Census in <i>North American Review</i> , Vol. 153, page 618) of.....	2,500,000,000
Mortgaged Indebtedness of Business Realty, Street Railways, Manufactories and Business enterprise (estimated from partial reports of 11th Census)	5,000,000,000
Loans from 3,773 National Banks (Statistical Abstracts of the United States)	2,153,769,806
Loans from 5,579 State, Saving, Stock and Private Banks and Trust Companies (Statistical Abstracts of the United States).....	2,201,764,292
These are figures on which something definite has been obtained; also the ratio of increase from 1880 to 1890, which was from \$6,750,000,000 in 1880 to \$19,000,000,000 in 1890. By computing the same ratio of increase we should now add.....	8,000,000,000
Mortgage debts on homes not occupied by owner, (estimated).....	1,000,000,000
Overdue accounts due Merchants, wholesale and retail, drawing from 6 to 10 per cent interest (estimated).....	5,000,000,000
Debts due Pawn Brokers drawing from 60 to 120 per cent per annum or 5 to 10 per cent a month (estimated)....	1,000,000,000
Private debts due from individuals to individuals and of which there is no public record or other data for census officers to obtain information (es-	

timed)	1,000,000,000
Maritime debts (estimated)	1,000,000,000
Overdrafts, judgments, taxes, miscellaneous items of indebtedness not covered in any of the foregoing (estimated)	4,000,000,000
Total.....	\$40,346,315,848

Q. "What effect, bad or otherwise, has debts on the prosperity of the country, and in what way does it affect the financial question?"

A. "In this way. Debts, a non-producing industry, growing to such a magnitude that the profits derived from all the producing industries of the country will not more than pay the interest on these debts, make the producers thereafter work for the benefit of the money-lenders or non-producing class. When such a condition as to debts arise as we now have, all money nearly gravitates into the hands of the money-lenders and piles up in the money centers. The effect of debts upon civilization has never been understood generally. A prosperous country can carry about a certain proportion of debt among its people without apparent injury, but when it reaches the present proportion—a proportion only reached three times before in the known history of the world—it produces commercial paralysis and the financial enslavement of the people. All the people make, goes to pay the money-lenders their interest. You see it is this way," and Coin held up his right hand with thumb and forefinger together, a favorite gesture with him, "when you pay money to a merchant or a manufacturer that you may owe, the money you pay him is paid by him to others for material and other products of his business

with no charge or embargo upon it, but when you pay back to a money-lender a debt you owe him, the money stops there until it is loaned out again to come back with interest. When this grows to such an extent as to re-



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quire all or most of the money in the country to pay the interest on debts, then commerce slackens and there is little or no money among the people except as loaned out by the banks and others whose business it is to loan

money. They are dealing in the blood of commerce and when they take it from the arteries and veins of commerce there is commercial sickness and distress. There is not time here to discuss the subject your question raises, but I want to give you this suggestion for your class to think of: One cent loaned in the Year One, at six per cent interest, 1894 years ago, and the annual interest reloaned and added to the principal, would now make a sum as expressed in dollars, too large for any known system of figures to express, and if counted in gold it would make a globe, the diameter of which would reach from here to the sun; and a man working for \$1.50 per day for that eighteen hundred and ninety-four years would receive less than one million dollars—less than 3 cubic feet of gold. Think of this," COIN said, as he paused a moment, "and while you think about it remember that all the gold in the world now available for money, debt-paying substance, will go in the cube of 22 feet. Civilization has labored under this load it has carried, since a medium of exchange was made and law made it legal for men to traffic in it. Without demonetization of silver the present conditions would bring prostration to business.

"Debts also affect us," he continued, "in this way: Debts covering long terms of years and renewed debts, which amounts to the same thing, and new debts made to pay old debts which is equivalent to renewing the old indebtedness, call for dollars, to get which, at a time of falling prices, the debtor must give up more and more of his property. Declining prices thus make it that much harder for debtors to pay their debts. Property declines and debts stand still, or, property stands still and the dollars in which the debts are payable rise in exchangeable value with property. I want to call your

attention," COIN further said, "to a published document of a Census officer, Frederick C. Waite, on page 277 of this Treasury report, the name of which I gave you, revised to August 1894, and I want to again impress on all of you to write to Washington to the President or the Treasurer or any of the administration officers there for these public documents. They are writing back to the people that they are out of print and that they cannot furnish them for that reason. No appropriation the government can make to the Navy, the Army or for any other purpose just now is as important as the printing of these public documents and furnishing them to the public. Intelligence is now of more importance to the republic than brute force, or powder and bullets.

"This republic," he continued, "was founded on the theory that the judgment of all the people was safer than that any one class should do the thinking for them, in fact, it is the life and strength of a republic. The refusal of the authorities at Washington to conform to this spirit of our institutions, and supply the people requesting it this information, is but another evidence of the dangers threatening the republic. Write again and keep on writing until there is less fishing [Laughter] and the printing presses are going to supply the people with the information you should have. Make life a burden to the officials at Washington till they supply you. What you want to write for is :

1. The Coinage and Currency Laws.
2. The Statistical Abstract.
3. The Report of the Treasurer with statistical and other information revised to August 1, 1894.
4. A copy of the Act of February 12, 1873, the act commonly known as the act demonetizing silver, and don't let them put you off with a copy of it that disposes

of some sections in the bill by referring to the revised statutes. That is what they have done in the latest copy of this act they have sent out, and among other sections omitted was Section 15, that I read you a few minute since.

Q. "Would it not be repudiation to cut down the size of the gold dollar?"

A. "If to cut down the size of the gold dollar is repudiation, then to leave it where it is, is confiscation. If gold has appreciated, its appreciation should be taken out of it. If silver put in competition with it as primary money 16 to 1, does not depreciate gold to its former level, it will be because of the billions of dollars of debts payable in gold by reason of the Bland-Allison act, and if it is found that this unfair and unrepealable advantage as to gold in existing debts, still causes an appreciation in gold, this appreciation should be taken out of it. Under absolute *free coinage and equal treatment of the two metals under the law and in payment of debts* a parity of the commercial value of the two metals at a ratio of 16 to 1, is an axiom. But if we have forfeited our right to revive the law as it previously existed as to existing gold debts, then we should reduce the size of the gold dollar. It has been reduced twice before."

"To add to the size of the silver dollar," he continued, "is but to fasten low prices upon the country, and to assure disaster that we seek to avoid with rising prices. The present system is repudiation of honest government, and the confiscation of the property of the people."

Q. "What is known as to the population of the world at different periods? It is important data to be taken into consideration in estimating the increased amount of primary money necessary. We would like to know what you have to say about this?"

COIN sent to his room for an Encyclopædia Britannica, Mulhall's Statistics and other books and then gave the following :

A. "The population of the Roman Empire at the death of Augustus (14 B. C.) is estimated at about 54,000,000. Population of Europe after the depleting effect of the dark ages and at the beginning of the Fifteenth century hardly exceeded 50,000,000.

"Population of great European powers last 400 years as estimated in these authorities before us, which includes England, (United Kingdom), France, Prussia, (German Empire), Russia, Austria, Italy and Spain is as follows :

1480	46,700,000
1580	59,250,000
1680	73,032,000
1762, Expilly	130,000,000
1778, Moheare	150,000,000
1800, Levasseur.	175,000,000
1828, Balbi.	214,000,000
1841, Berg-Lona	233,700,000
1850, Confronte	255,000,000
1861, Hausner	283,900,000
1871, Berg-Lona	293,000,000
1882, Behm-Wagner	327,800,000
1886, Levasseur	345,700,000

"Mulhall says population of the world has been estimated as follows :

1804, Mate-Brun.	640 million
1828, Balbi.	847 million
1845, Michelot.	1,009 million
1874, Behm-Wagner.	1,391 million
1878, Levasseur.	1,439 million
1883, Behm-Wagner.	1,433 million

"By Behm & Wagner (*Die Bevölkerung der Erde, vii.*) population of sections of the world in June, 1882, was estimated :

Europe.	327,743,400
Asia	795,591,000
Africa.	205,823,200
America	100,415,400
Australasia.	no estimate
Polynesia.	4,232,000
Polar Regions.	82,500

	1,433,887,500

"Population of the United States, Census reports :

1790.	3,929,214
1800.	5,308,483
1810.	7,239,881
1820.	9,633,822
1830.	12,866,020
1840.	17,069,453
1850.	23,191,876
1860.	31,443,321
1870.	38,558,371
1880.	50,155,783
1890.	62,622,250

"Mulhall gives the increase and distribution of the world's population from 1810 to 1886 in the following table :

	Gotha 1810	Balbi 1828	Miche- lot 1845	Behm- Wagner 1874	Levas- seur 1886	Millions.
Europe	180	214	245	301	347	"
America	21	40	50	85	112	"
Asia	380	481	620	798	822	"
Africa	99	109	90	203	197	"
Australia	2	3	4	4	5	"
	682	847	1,009	1,391	1,483	"

Mr. Shibley had now finished his list of questions, and at one o'clock an adjournment was taken for lunch to reassemble at two. The "experts" were to come next.

CHAPTER VIII.

COIN AND THE EXPERTS.

There was a rush to gain admission at two o'clock when the meeting reassembled, and it was with great difficulty that many entitled to places gained entrance to the room. Most of those present were prominent business men, and many leaders of political and labor organizations were among the number.

COIN personally superintended the arrangement of the seats the "experts" were to occupy. He had the reporters' tables moved to the right and left, leaving an open space in front of the platform into which he had the three chairs placed that were to be occupied by Mr. Garnett, Mr. Gunn and Colonel Forest.

Colonel Forest asked the first question. Mr. Garnett, who was a really able man, had grasped the situation, and his strong character had its influence over his associates, so that he tacitly took command. He wanted to feel the position of the enemy, by advancing the light infantry first, and had directed Colonel Forest and Mr. Gunn to open the fight.

"You have said," began Colonel Forest, as he stood up, "that primary money is the measure of values under a redemption monetary system. You illustrate this position of yours, that circulated credit money does not add to the value of property other than money, but only facil-

itates its exchange, by the modern introduction of the system of warehouse receipts into grain transactions. These, you say, add nothing to the exchange value of wheat; they only facilitate its exchange. And yet does not any man of sense see that without warehouse receipts the grain would have to be transferred on every transaction at an enormous cost? And so, saving as they do such material transfer, does not this immaterial transfer of receipts get rid of all the expenses of the material? Do away with the warehouse certificates in this city today and the price of grain in Chicago would fall enormously, because the sale of the product would be virtually prohibited."

"Colonel," replied COIN, "before the introduction of warehouse receipts, wheat was at a good price—a satisfactory price. At the present time under the system of warehouse receipts (the credit representative of the wheat), that cereal is at the lowest price ever known to the people of the United States. So that if you relied on practical demonstration of your proposition you might as easily argue that the system of warehouse receipts decreases the price of wheat rather than advances it.

"The demand for gold," he continued, "cannot be supplied by any representative of it, other than that which will get the gold on demand. If is the demand for the gold that gives it exchangeable value. It is the demand for wheat that gives it its exchangeable value. The piece of paper or other certificate calling for either does not add to or subtract from the value of either. If you have given your note payable in so many bushels of wheat, to get the wheat you must exchange other property for it. If in this instance you exchanged a house and lot for the wheat, you would pass your title to the realty on a piece of paper—a deed, and in return would receive a piece of

paper—a certificate. In neither instance would the piece of paper add to the value of either the house and lot, or the wheat? They are evidences of title and not an addition to the value."

Coin now took from his pocket a \$20 gold piece, the first that many in the room had seen for months, and holding it up said:

"If you have given your note for so many dollars payable in gold '*of the present weight and fineness*,' it means that you have given your note payable in so many grains, ounces or pounds of gold according to the number of dollars called for in the note. The present weight and fineness means 25 8-10 grains of standard gold to each dollar. To get this gold with which to pay your note, you exchange for it other property. If in this instance also, you exchange a house and lot for the gold, you would pass your title to the realty on a piece of paper—a deed, and in return would receive a piece of paper—a bank note or one of the other forms of 'representative money,' representing gold. In neither instance would the piece of paper add to the value of either the house and lot or the gold, the properties, respectively, that figured as the basis of the transaction."

"But," said the Colonel, "suppose in the sale of the house and lot I receive silver dollars instead of paper money. What do I receive?"

"Your note being payable in gold, what you wanted was gold or its equivalent. In this instance that you name, you have received a certificate on the United States Treasury written on silver that will get you the gold. In establishing the gold standard those instigating it had Congress enact that '*every dollar should be as good as every other dollar*.' As gold by other legislation was most in demand and thereby made the most

valuable, this act I have just alluded to made all our dollars redeemable in gold. It is the only way to make every dollar as good as every other dollar, so long as the demand for silver is destroyed by closing the mints and discriminating against it in other legislation. So that, in this instance, you received certificates written on silver that would get the gold. Repeated acts of Congress have fastened upon us a gold currency with all other forms of money reduced to certificates calling for gold."

As COIN closed Colonel Forest was looking toward the floor in a thoughtful attitude. He was thinking.

Then there followed a silence for a moment in which neither spoke.

The little Statesmen broke the stillness. He took out of his pocket a clipping from the *Chicago Evening News*, the paper for which Colonel Forest writes over the name of "Now or Never," and stepping down from the platform handed it to his interrogator, and asked him if it were not a part of one of his articles, to which the Colonel replied that it was. COIN then said, as his eyes fell on the newspaper clipping:

"In speaking of the President's policy you say,

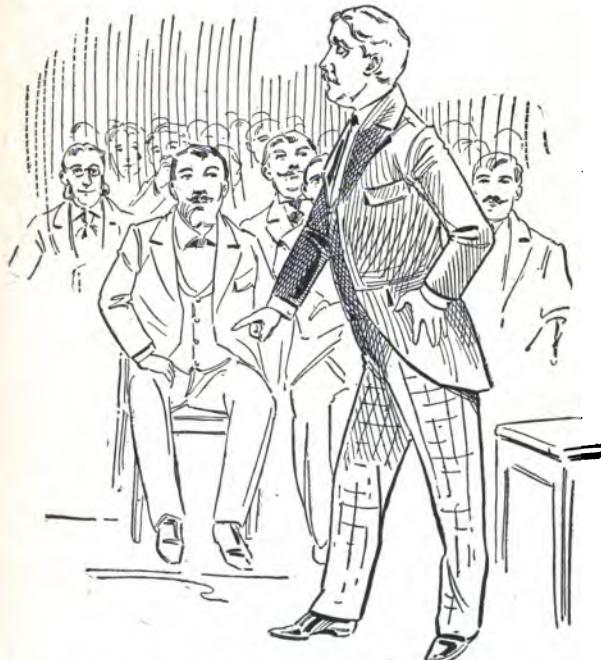
'The most effective feature of it is the proposal to retire and cancel a certain portion of the demand notes of the government. I would prefer the retiracy of the silver certificates, as a matter of theory. As a matter of practical effect, however, the retirement of any class of demand obligations in the shape of paper money will have the desired effect. What is absolutely needed is currency contraction. Without this any proposition to prevent the possibility of the appearance of a premium on gold will prove a delusion and snare.'

"I presume," continued COIN, after he had read Colonel Forest's printed statement, "that this properly represents your views?"

"It does," replied the newspaper man.

"Why do you want contraction of the currency?" asked the little financier.

"Because," replied the Colonel, "there are more demand obligations in the shape of paper money and silver certificates in existence than there is gold to redeem them."



COLONEL FOREST STATING A PROPOSITION.

"I thought so," said COIN, as he smiled and stepped back on the platform and turning put this question:

"Have you any other reason, Colonel, for wishing 'currency contraction'?"

"There is too much money in circulation for the needs of business. It is a drug on the market," replied the expert.

A smile played over the features of the little Statesman as he looked with a forgiving expression on his face at this old and respected citizen of Chicago. The smile was contagious. The opinion that there was too much money and that contraction was what was needed, had the effect of making every one smile, till it broke out into boisterous laughter in several portions of the audience.

"You have frankly stated," said COIN, addressing the 'expert,' "what is carefully concealed by the class you represent. It is *contraction* in the quantity of credit money they want. It is the only possible method, and they know it, of maintaining the gold standard. By reducing the quantity of 'demand notes and silver certificates,' as you phrase it, to the same number of dollars as there are gold dollars in this country, would stop the run on the Treasury for gold, but —" and the little fellow looked sternly into the face of the gold man, "it would ruin the country, and could not even then be long maintained, as England would take our gold and further contraction would have to follow. What is your answer to that?" concluded the little fellow.

"I deny that England can take all our gold away from us," was the reply.

This statement produced a "risible" effect on the audience. The large shipments of gold continuously to Europe, and the now well-known fact that it was leaving us to pay interest on an enormous amount of American securities held abroad, together with the fact that the administration at Washington had had to go to England recently to get gold, that would in the payment of interest thereon still further increase the flow of gold from

this country, made the answer of the Chicago "expert" sound unnatural and unreasonable.

"I want to say right here," said COIN, addressing the people, "that you may expect this flow of gold to Europe to stop at any time *temporarily* by the money kings purposely stopping it for the deceptive effect it may have on you at a National election."

Colonel Forest had made a bad start. His propositions did not sound so well when made in public as they had to him when theorizing in the privacy of his own room. The laughter of the auditors disconcerted him. Here was a fairly impartial and appreciative audience and what he said did not seem to be approved.

Mr. Garnett was now seen to lean over and whisper to Mr. Gunn. Colonel Forest had failed in his first assault on the little bimetallist, and it would not do to risk him reforming his ranks under fire. Mr. Gunn was being ordered to the relief of his brother "expert."

The man from Missouri rose, and as he did so, the man from Illinois felt a relief, but reluctantly retired.

Mr. Gunn had previously arranged in his mind several propositions, and had intended to begin with the weaker and follow up with the stronger ones, closing with his masterpiece. But the experience of his associate warned him that if he was to stay in the fight his first shot must count. So, he hurriedly concluded to bring his biggest gun into action at once.

He held in his hand a pamphlet and he now proceeded to put his question, at times using the pamphlet and reading therefrom. Whether question or proposition, whichever it might be termed, it was as follows:

"The first silver dollar coined was in 1794. In 1806, twelve years later, less than a million and a half of silver dollars had been coined. The coinage of silver dol-

lars was then suddenly stopped and not resumed again till 1840, a period of thirty-four years. This was done by order of Mr. Jefferson on account of the exportation of our silver dollars, and all silver coinage thereafter for thirty-four years was in silver pieces of fifty cents and less. From 1840 down to 1873, the coinage of silver dollars went on at the average rate of about \$200,000 per annum, so that in 1873 the total coinage from 1792, eighty-one years, was only \$8,031,288. The coinage of standard silver dollars was suspended for five years, until 1878, when the Bland-Allison bill was passed. During these five years, 31,699,460 trade dollars were coined. This coinage was nearly four times as great as the entire coinage of dollars during the previous eighty-one years. In addition to this, the coinage of halves, quarters and dimes, during this five years amounted to \$47,072,862. The combined coinage of dollars and fractional coins was \$78,772,322.

"When the Bland-Allison bill," he continued, "was passed in 1878, the coinage of standard dollars was resumed with great activity, \$22,495,550 being coined the first year. This was increased year by year until the climax was reached in 1890, when \$38,043,000 were coined. In November, 1893, the purchasing clause of the Sherman act was repealed, and since that time the coinage of silver dollars is still going on at a moderate rate, 1,853,651 standard dollars having been coined during the first nine months of that year.

Summing up the account, it stands as follows:

Coining of trade dollars, 1873 to 1883.....	\$ 35,965,924
" " fractional silver, 1873 to 1894.....	70,817,227
" " standard dollars, 1873 to 1894.....	<u>421,175,051</u>
Total silver coinage, 1873 to October 1, 1894.....	\$527,958,202

"All of this vast sum of silver has been coined during the last twenty-one years, since the alleged "crime of demonetization of silver," in 1873, and only \$8,000,-000 prior to that time.

"Ought not," he concluded, "this vast coinage of silver to satisfy the most ardent free silver man, and does it not teach its own lesson?" and he looked at the little financier with a grim and withering expression that was intended for the little fellow's annihilation.

The people present had listened attentively to Mr. Gunn. Here was something they had heard before, but they had never heard it stated so strongly, with so much force. The money-leaders present began to pick up courage. The friends of bimetallism and those patriotically looking for a remedy for our social disorders and depression in business, had leaned forward with inquiring interest as the "expert" had spoken. They were now equally anxious to hear the reply.

When Mr. Gunn began, COIN had walked over to the end of the platform and again said something to Fred Wendling, he had then returned and had stood with his arms folded across his breast. His face was pleasant to look upon as he listened. It was placid and undisturbed.

As Mr. Gunn concluded there was perfect quiet in the room. All were anxious to hear the reply.

COIN took from Fred, who had returned, a book. It was entitled "The Coinage Law of the United States, 1792 to 1894, with an appendix of statistics relating to coins and currency. Fourth edition revised and corrected to August 1, 1894," published by the Treasury Department of the United States. He then gave Fred some further directions and soon a number of books were on his table.

Opening the book above referred to at page ninety-five and stating what the book was, he said :

" We will first get your figures right, Mr. Gunn, and get a fair statement of the proposition you intend to



MR. GUNN GOES TO THE RELIEF OF COLONEL FOREST.

make. I am sure you do not intend to mislead anyone, so we will get it right. I find that monometallists are theorists, and when they get wrong figures for their premises to start with, they can construct the most beautiful of structures. I am now going to tear down your structure.

"You say that from 1794 to 1806 there was less than a million and a half of silver dollars coined. You should have used the year 1793, instead of 1794. You then say that there was a total suspension of the coinage of silver dollars for the next thirty-four years, and that only 8,031,288 were coined prior to 1873. You lay stress on this latter amount and give no further figures for silver coinage for those years.

"I will now hand to the official stenographer this report of the Treasury Department on page 95 and have these columns giving the coinage of all silver and gold coined added up. We will take it by periods as you have given it."

COIN now stepped down to the table where Miss Hix sat and had her first add up the column of silver coined from 1793 to 1806 inclusive.

It made \$2,381,721.75.

"Now," said COIN, to Miss Hix, "add up the gold coined for the same period, 1793 to 1806."

It made \$2,872,062.50.

These additions were called out, as fast as made to the audience.

"Now," said the little bimetallist, "we have added up all silver coins and all gold coins. I have not discriminated between \$5 gold pieces and \$10 or \$20 gold pieces, but have added them *all* up. Neither have I discriminated between dimes, quarters, halves or dollars in the silver coinage. Silver is the people's money, and it is coined, or should be, in the manner to be most serviceable, and that is what Jefferson and Jackson did.

"Mr. Gunn," he continued, "has only added up the dollar pieces. It would be unfair in me to add up only the gold eagles and leave all the other gold pieces out of my calculation. We will add them all up. There is no

significance in adding the silver dollars up and not the 50-cent, 25-cent and 10-cent pieces. It is all silver and we should see what it all makes."

Mr. Gunn said nothing. The people were listening for what would come next. So far there had been nearly as much silver coined as gold.

"Mr. Gunn," continued COIN, "next speaks of the period from 1806 to 1840, a period of thirty-four years. We will add the two columns of silver and gold coined for that period."

In a few moments the announcement was made. It stood :

Silver	\$ 52,723,195.65
Gold.....	25,440,372.50

A buzz of conversation stirred the audience. More silver had been coined than gold. Here were statements based on facts, and both sides were present to witness it. It made a foundation on which to stand. This is the way they regarded it. They were anxious for information and they wanted the *correct* information. They were now getting it. From these facts they learned that during the period covered by the lives of Washington, Jefferson and Jackson silver had constituted a majority of the coined and primary money of the government.

"You will observe, Mr. Gunn," said the little fellow, taking the "expert" by the arm and leading him over to the table where the open book lay, and pointing with his right hand and index finger to the column of figures, "that there was no year in which silver was not coined, while in two of the years, 1816 and 1817, there was no gold coined."

COIN then had his Hand Book distributed through the audience and asked all to turn to page 26 and notice

the output of gold and silver of the world for the period they had just covered—1793 to 1840.

The reader can see it by turning back to page 11 of this book where it has been reproduced. It may also be found on page 103 in the book referred to (U. S. Treasury report) as used by COIN above in his answer to Mr. Gunn.

"You will observe," said COIN, "that during that period, 1793 to 1840, the output of silver in the world was proportionately very large, but we produced very little. In fact, we imported most of that which we coined. From 1840 to 1873, the next period Mr. Gunn covers, the output of gold increased very largely. It began in great earnest in 1852. It was at this period that the 'money changers' tried to demonetize gold and put the world on a silver basis.

"During this period, 1840 to 1873, the world's output of silver, as you will notice," again referring to page 26 of the Hand Book, "was very small, and especially is this noticeable as compared with increasing commerce and population. In proportion to our commerce and population with the other countries of the world, we coined our proportion of it.

"We will now add up," he continued, "the amount of gold and silver coined during the period from 1840 to 1873.

"It was :

Silver	\$ 88,360,233.20
Gold	766,979,345.00

"The output of silver and gold of the world during this same period was :

Silver, 1840 to 1873	\$ 1,448,545,000
Gold" "	3,006,069,000

"This falling off in the relative production of silver in part accounts for our relatively small coinage of it.

Another reason and the greater reason is, that Europe was hording silver with a view to its appreciation by the demonetization of gold. Our greater coinage of gold was by reason of the vast gold discoveries of California. We had become a great gold producing country, but little silver was produced by us till 1869.

"Cast your eyes down the two columns giving the production of gold and silver of the world from 1850 to 1873, and you will see how scarce silver was and how plentiful was gold. In previous periods it had been the reverse. When there was more silver than gold we coined more silver than gold; when there was more gold than silver we coined more gold than silver. Either answered for use as money.

"We will now add up," said the little financier, "the gold and silver coined during the next period mentioned by Mr. Gunn, from 1873 to 1893 inclusive of the last year named."

It stood :

Silver	\$ 529,244,117.60
Gold.....	857,914,473.00

"The lesson we draw from these figures," continued COIN, "is as follows :

1. "Prior to 1873 we coined all the gold and silver we could get. Our mints were open free to the unlimited coinage of both metals, to all that would come. No discrimination was made against either metal. It is no one's fault that more was not coined, except that more did not come to be coined. It would have been coined if it had applied. The latch-string hung outside of the mint doors."

2. "A practical parity between the two metals was maintained during that period, as we have before seen, no matter how the supply varied. Between 1792 and

1840 the supply of silver in the world was three times the supply of gold counted by dollars. And between 1840 and 1873 the supply of gold was more than double the supply of silver. Since 1873, the world's supply of the two have been about equal, counted in dollars at their coinage value.

3. "Prior to 1873 we coined (instead of \$8,031,288 in silver, as one might have inferred Mr. Gunn to have us understand him) \$143,465,150.70. And we had in circulation as I have heretofore explained about \$100,-000,000 of silver coins of foreign countries that were made full legal tender money, the same as our own coins, as I have also explained heretofore, in all about \$243,-000,000 of silver coins."

COIN here explained how an error had crept into the official report of the Treasurer of the United States for 1893, that had caused him to heretofore state this figure at \$105,000,000. That he had since forced the Treasury Department to correct that error and it now stood correctly stated in the report and footed up \$143,465,150.70, which with the foreign silver coin in circulation during that period in this country (estimated) made about \$243,-000,000, used in this country prior to 1873.

4. "Since 1873 the mints have been closed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and it has been treated as secondary money, and the whole weight and responsibility of redemption money has been thrown on gold.

"Now, revising Mr. Gunn's figures," and COIN paused a moment while he sat down at a reporter's table, "we have the following statement:

	PRIOR TO 1873.	SINCE 1873.
Gold coined.....	795,291,780.00	857,914,473.00
Silver coined.....	143,465,150.70	529,244,117.60

Mr. Gunn took the memorandum above quoted from COIN's hand and after looking at it a moment and exhibiting a much better disposition toward the little fellow than he had before shown, admitted that his state-



ment had been unfair as to the amount of silver coined prior to 1873 and that he had reference to the dollar pieces. He had not intended to mislead anyone. He then said :

"It is but fair for me to admit that the silver coined since 1873 cannot be counted as a part of our stock of redemption money. The government has it, but will not use it. Our side of this question claims that it is a depreciated metal and ought not to be used. So, for the purpose of this argument we will admit that our primary money now consists of gold only."

Mr. Gunn thus far had been talking to the audience. He now turned to COIN and continued :

"I point you to the fact that we have coined in gold from 1873 to 1893, \$857,914,473.00. While prior to 1873 during 81 years we coined only \$795,291,780.00, so that, on the score of primary money, we have coined in the last 21 years named more than in all the former 81 years. If it is quantity of primary money that you want, this ought to satisfy you. If gold alone gives us relatively so large a supply of primary money, as it certainly does, the evils you complain of cannot be charged to the demonetization of one of the metals.

"To get your statement, Mr. Gunn," replied COIN. "fairly stated, you should add the silver coined before 1873 to the gold coined for that period, as both were primary money. We do not add the silver since 1873 to the gold, because the latter alone has been placed in the position of primary money, as you have stated ; so to be fair let's take the quantity of primary money coined before and since 1873 and compare them with the lessons to be learned therefrom.

"It will stand thus," said COIN, as he added them together.

Gold coined prior to 1873	\$795,291,780.00
Silver coined prior to 1873	143,465,150.70

Total	\$938,756,930.70
Gold coined since 1873	857,914,473.00

"So," the little financier continued, "we had coined prior to 1873 in primary money \$938,756,930.70 and since 1873, \$857,914,473.00.

THE TWO PERIODS COMPARED.

"Prior to 1873 we had an average population in the United States of about 17,000,000. That is arrived at in this way," he said, after having referred to a memorandum he had taken from his pocket. "Use the report of the Superintendent of the Census and you get this result:

"To get the average divide this result by nine, and you get 16,582,271. I add the balance of 17,000,000 so as to include an average for 1871 and 1872, the years prior to 1873.

"The average population since 1873 is arrived at this way," referring to his memorandum.

Census	United States, 1870	38,558,371
"	" " 1880	50,155,783
"	" " 1890	62,622,250
"	" " (Estimated 1893)	65,000,000
		216,336,304
Divided by 4 gives average		54,084,076

Coin did not read all his figures off, he gave totals, but his memoranda in full is copied herein. He then continued :

" For an average population of 17,000,000, prior to 1873, we coined money to the amount of \$938,756,930.70, and for an average population of 54,000,000, since 1873, we have coined for use as primary money \$857,914,473.00. For the lesser population we coined more primary money than we have since for the greater population.

" This comparison," he continued, " of the coinage of money to answer the wants of the people becomes the more striking when we compare the amount with population for the twenty-one years before and after January 1, 1873, instead of using the eighty-one years.

" For the twenty-one years prior to 1873 the amount coined was :

Silver primary money	\$ 65,212,706.20
Gold primary money	<u>615,149,157.50</u>

Total	\$680,361,863.70
Average population	31,000,000

Since January 1873 for twenty-one years we have coined :

Gold only as primary money	\$ 857,914,473.00
Average population	54,000,000

" For the former period of twenty-one years we coined about \$22 per capita, or about \$1.05 per capita per annum, and for the latter period of twenty-one years about \$15 per capita, or about 75 cents per capita per annum.

" A comparison," he continued, " of production and industries during these two periods show a still greater variance between the demand for primary money to transact the commerce of the country and the amount actually coined."

COIN then turned to page 468 of the Treasury report before referred to, and said :

"The average annual grain production of the United States for the twenty-one years prior to 1873 as averaged from the figures we find here, was 31,500,000 tons.

For the twenty-one years since 1873 the average is 68,500,000 tons.

"While the increase in population during the two periods I have named was about 70 per cent, the increase in manufactures was 200 per cent.

"I will make a few other selections for comparison," he said, as he picked up a "Statistical Abstract of the United States" and other government reports from time to time, as he continued his answer :

"Where data is not given for the twenty-one years prior to 1873," he continued, "I will compare the business of 1872 with that of 1892, and leave you to judge as I read, of the necessity for an increased supply of money to transact the business.

"In 1860 the total railway mileage of this country was 30,626 miles. In 1870 it was 52,922. In 1891 it was 170,601. *The receipts of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is now annually more than the receipts of the United States government in 1860.*

"The expense of conducting the telegraph lines of the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1872 was \$5,666,863. In 1892 it was \$16,307,857.

"The expense of running the government has doubled since 1873 and quadrupled since 1860.

"Nothing is such an accurate index to the general volume of business as the postal department of the government.

"The postal department of the government cost in 1872 \$24,390,104. In 1892 it cost \$76,323,762.

"The public schools of this country cost in 1872 \$74,234,476. In 1890 \$140,506,715. This book does not give it as late as 1892, when it was much greater," he said, as he laid down the Statistical Abstract from which he had read the figures.

{ "So that for the twenty-one years since 1873 we have coined less primary money per capita than we did for the twenty-one years prior to 1873, with the demand for such money more than doubled during the latter period.

"With population, production and commerce increasing in vast proportion compared with former years, we have a financial system bottomed on gold that has not increased in proportion, that holds and restricts commerce and lowers prices to fit the measure in which it is being taken."

"But," said Mr. Gunn, here interrupting the little speaker, "should you not add to the output of gold in the last 21 years, a part of that produced in former years, in making up the present stock of gold?"

"No," replied COIN, "on the contrary we have not now the \$857,914,473.00 of gold that has been coined in the last twenty-one years. All that is claimed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and his estimate is too high, to be in this country now obtainable in gold coin and bullion is \$604,000,000," and he cited Mr. Gunn to page 305 of the Treasurer's book, from which they had been taking their figures.

"With the advance of modern science and arts," he continued, "the use for gold for purposes other than money has rapidly increased."

"COIN then turned to page 455 of the Treasury report he had previously used and read in round figures the gold as expressed in dollars that had been furnished by the government to manufactures and the arts for the

years 1880 to 1892. He then clipped this statement from the book and handed it to the official stenographer. It reads as follows:

**GOLD FURNISHED FOR USE IN MANUFACTURES AND THE ARTS
IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE CALENDAR
YEARS 1880-1892.**

1880.	.	\$ 10,962,600
1881.	.	11,770,700
1882.	.	10,868,000
1883.	.	14,458,800
1884.	.	14,500,000
1885.	.	11,824,742
1886.	.	13,069,529
1887.	.	14,810,346
1888.	.	16,514,842
1889.	.	16,697,056
1890.	.	17,655,960
1891.	.	19,686,916
1892.	.	19,329,074
Total	.	\$192,148,565

"The magnitude of this drain upon our gold production," he then said, "can best be appreciated and its effect understood by seeing what our production of gold in this country is. For the purpose of comparison we will take it for the years covered by the table just presented."

COIN here turned to this information, beginning on page 300 of the same book, and read the figures. They are here reproduced and are as follows:

Gold production of the United States for the years named.

1880.	.	\$36,000,000
1881.	.	34,700,000
1882.	.	32,500,000
1883.	.	30,000,000
1884.	.	30,800,000
1885.	.	31,800,000
1886.	.	35,000,000
1887.	.	33,000,000
1888.	.	33,175,000
1889.	.	32,800,000
1890.	.	32,845,000
1891.	.	33,175,000
1892.	.	33,000,000
Total	.	\$428,795,000

"When what we are now doing," continued COIN, "is before you in printed form I want you to observe," and as he paused with this unfinished sentence on his lips, he took Mr. Gunn (to whom the foregoing words had been addressed) by the arm and led him to the reporter's table, and went on with his index finger pointing at the table before them, "that while the drain on the government for gold for use in the arts has increased from \$10,962,600 in 1880, to \$19,329,074 in 1892, the production of gold in the United States has decreased from \$36,000,000 in 1880 to \$33,000,000 in 1892.

"I have now come," said the little Statesman addressing the audience, "to the most serious statement yet." And with this he handed to Mr. Q. Campbell, a reporter of the *Inter Ocean*, the Treasury book he had been using and asked him to read aloud to the people from page 102, the production of gold in the United States as therein given from 1848 to 1892.

Mr. Campbell did so. What he read was as follows :

1849	40,000,000
1850	50,000,000
1851	55,000,000
1852	60,000,000
1853	65,000,000
1854	60,000,000
1855	55,000,000
1856	55,000,000
1857	55,000,000
1858	50,000,000
1859	50,000,000
1860	46,000,000
1861	43,000,000
1862	39,200,000
1863	40,000,000
1864	46,100,000

1865	53,225,000
1866	53,500,000
1867	51,725,000
1868	48,000,000
1869	49,500,000
1870	50,000,000
1871	43,500,000
1872	36,000,000
1873	36,000,000
1874	33,500,000
1875	33,400,000
1876	39,900,000
1877	46,900,000
1878	51,200,000
1879	38,900,000
1880	36,000,000
1881	34,700,000
1882	32,500,000
1883	30,000,000
1884	30,800,000
1885	31,800,000
1886	35,000,000
1887	33,000,000
1888	33,175,000
1889	32,800,000
1890	32,845,000
1891	33,175,000
1892	33,000,000

" You will observe," said COIN, " that we are not producing as much gold as we did in 1849. In 1853, when we had a population of about 25 million, we produced \$65,000,000 in gold, while in 1892, with a population of 65,000,000, we produced \$33,000,000 in gold."

The little financier now handed the open book to Mr. Gunn, and asked him to look at the row of figures.

" Notice," he said, as the Missourian did as he requested, " how the production of gold with us has declined since 1853." ✓

These were startling figures. They had that effect on the "expert." He looked them over with his face wearing a care-worn expression. He then beckoned Garnett, with a motion of his head to come to him. They looked over the page in the book together, and then Mr. Gunn said to Mr. Garnett, "how do you answer it?" Mr. Garnett's reply was a shake of the head and then he said, "we coined more than that, put *that* at him!"

Mr. Gunn turned and did as his brother expert had suggested.

COIN replied: "I first presented this question in the most favorable light for you that the figures would permit of. For that purpose I took the amount of gold coined in the United States since 1873. I wanted you to see first that with all that you could claim that we had only coined 75 cents per capita per annum of primary money since 1873, to \$1.05 per capita per annum for the twenty-one years prior to 1873. But the facts are much more serious than that."

COIN then explained how since 1873 gold from British America, Mexico, Central and South America had come to the United States to be coined in our mints, virtually in transit to other countries, or to be returned to those countries. He also said that United States gold coins were about the only gold coins to be found in the banks of Canada, Cuba and South American cities, furnishing a certificate of weight and fineness and that was all that was necessary to make it a medium of exchange in those countries.

He then said: "The amount of gold that thus used our mints as a convenience since 1873 amount to over \$200,000,000, and when that is deducted from the \$857,914.473.00 with which I have heretofore credited our stock of gold since that year, instead of having for our

own use 75 cents per capita per annum for this latter period of twenty-one years, it is less than 55 cents per capita per annum, as against \$1.05 per capita per annum for the twenty-one years prior to 1873.

"Can you answer me, Mr. Gunn? We are here for information and the truth," concluded the little fellow.

Mr. Gunn had taken a seat at a table and was looking over the book that had been under discussion, and made no reply to the question put to him. He was thinking about the row of figures that gave the production of gold in the United States since 1849.

The little bimetallist now turned to the audience and said:

"Deception and misrepresentation are now being resorted to, concerning the output of gold in Africa. The men who have purposely, selfishly and deceptively reduced this country and most of the world to its present distressed condition, are using every mining-camp story from Africa and exaggerating it as it travels, relying on your credulity and believing that they can further lull you to repose."

The expert from Kansas City had now risen to his feet. He was good-natured. He was a man to take defeat pleasantly and in this he differed from most men. He had had his doubts about all the points he intended to put except on this one that he had launched at his antagonist.

He had heard it analyzed and answered and he could think of no reply. He had looked at page 211 of the book he had been examining while sitting at the table and saw that including gold bullion and gold coin in 1893 (the last year therein given), both in the Treasury and in circulation (the latter estimated) there was only claimed to be in this country \$597,697,685 in gold. He

knew that our exports of gold since then had largely exceeded our production, in fact as much as our whole annual supply had been shipped abroad in a single month, and in a swift calculation that he made in his mind he was ready to believe that there was not much if any over \$200,000,000 of gold at present in this country. The fact that the United States had been compelled recently to go to England for gold, impressed him still more that COIN was right, and that there was very little gold left in this country for use as primary or redemption money.

He rose to his feet in a state of good-natured disgust, and, as he did so, he uttered a word or two that was evidently the beginning of a question, but suddenly changing his mind, he turned toward the Californian and said:

"Take him, Garnett, I am done."

CHAPTER IX.

COIN AND THE CHIEF EXPERT.

The man from San Francisco slowly rose. He had consented to enter the controversy confident as to the outcome. Part of that confidence had now deserted him, but he intended to bring into play new facts and new logic, and unless their presentation met with unexpected reverses he would win.

Mr. Garnett is a man 72 years of age but appearing much younger. He is full of life, vigor and mental energy. He is not a money-lender, but he belongs to that class of men who find a pleasure in serving in the salaried army of capitalists. There is an instinct in human nature that draws it to capital ; that causes it to play around it ; that has its character moulded by it ; that becomes its slave and trained servant. All men are not affected by it, but Mr. Garnett had been thus influenced and his life had been one of service to capital.

It was at the request of the leading bankers of San Francisco that he organized in 1866, the San Francisco Assaying and Refining Works, and since then his associates have been these patrons of nearly thirty years. Men of stronger character than this metallurgist have had their intelligence warped, or placed at the service of a power too strong for them to resist. Politicians, ministers, lawyers, all classes of professional and business

men in the pursuit of wealth have played around the money blaze, as the candle fly is attracted by the warmth of the candle blaze. Both scorch with equally fatal effect, but this subtle influence will continue to operate upon the average man—in fact it is the rare exception upon which it does not exert its influence. Mr. Garnett was no exception.

On his side of the controversy he had the field all to himself. The Commander-in-chief of the attacking forces was now, in person, leading the assault. If the columns he led were truth and justice he was entitled to win, if they were errors and inconsistencies they were doomed to defeat.

He, too, like the man from Kansas City held in his hand a pamphlet. It was the magazine in which his carefully prepared article had appeared, and he read each elaborate proposition he made therefrom.

It was with great solemnity and dignity that the chief expert read the first two paragraphs from the magazine article.

They were as follows :

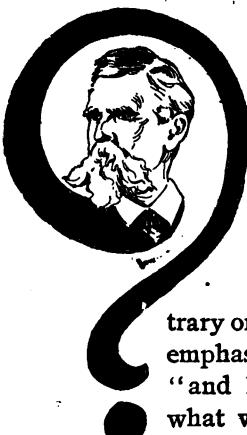
"That gold has acquired in recent years a greatly increased purchasing-power, or command over commodities, no one is insane enough to deny; but that it has been the result of any change in economic or industrial conditions operating directly upon the metal-mass itself, no one will admit who has investigated the subject with the single purpose of ascertaining the facts underlying the phenomenon. Its explanation, therefore, should be sought for by inductive methods among the complex industrial conditions which have produced a fall in prices, and not by an arbitrary or gratuitous assumption, based on mere illation, that such a fall is the result of an appreciation of gold. When this shall have been done it will undoubtedly appear that the alleged appreciation is sim-

ply *an effect* resulting from, and not *a cause* producing the phenomena observed.

"At the very threshold we are confronted with a fact that admonishes us of the dangers of hasty conclusions. It is not to be denied that gold is, of all known substances, the least subject to changes either physical or economic. It possesses all the elements of stability of value in a more eminent degree than any other product of nature, or than any product of man's ingenuity. It is, therefore, pre-eminently suited to the purposes of a "standard" measure of value; whose paramount and most essential characteristics are immutability and exemption from physical and economic changes."

With this he stopped reading and placing his spectacles on the end of his nose, lowered his head and looked at his antagonist on the platform. His attitude and manner were an interrogation—as if he were expecting a reply.

The little financier was calm and answered with ease as follows :



"Let us argue nothing with 'arbitrary or gratuitous assumption,'" he began emphasizing words Mr. Garnett had used, "and let there be nothing 'complex' in what we say—let it be simple. You say that '*gold possesses all the elements of stability of value in a more eminent degree than any other product of nature, or any product of man's ingenuity, and that it is pre-eminently suited to the purposes of a standard measure of value whose paramount and most essential characteristics are immutability and exemption from physical and economic changes.*' As to physical changes and immutability you are right, except that silver is *more durable and less subject to physical changes.* Silver

does not suffer by abrasion so much as gold. Silver coins may be carried in the pockets of the people for a whole generation without falling below the weight of tolerance fixed by law, while gold coin similarly used will lose this much of its gold in two years. So noticeable is this that in some cities gold coin is only accepted at the banks by weight and not for the amount named thereon by the government stamp.

"As to 'stability of value of gold,' that is determined best by the system of index numbers as applied to the comparative value of different commodities running through a period of years with the purchasing power of gold as expressed in these prices. What is meant by index numbers is taking the average annual price of a commodity or of several commodities and thus lining them out through a number of years and placing them in a table by the side of each other for comparison. Gold tried by this test shows that it is in no sense a 'standard' of value."

COIN then picked up a copy of his "Financial School" and turning to page 87 asked Mr. Gunn to read to the people present the article therein copied from the journal called *The Colonies and India*. The little fellow seemed to be reserving his strength for the "expert" from the Pacific coast.

Mr. Gunn did so, and what he read was the following :

"One of our contemporaries asks: 'What is the most constant standard of value in existence?' There can be but one rational answer, in fact—viz., silver. The value of a ton weight of silver on any given day—whether expressed in £ s. d., in dollars and cents, in francs, in marks, or in rupees and pice, and (compared on the same day with) the sum of the market prices of

standard test qualities of each of one hundred varieties of the most generally-dealt-in commodities of the market, also expressed in the same money terms—have by statistical observation and many hundreds of official tests, practically been found the constant equivalent, on the same market, of each other during the last five and twenty years since the system of "index numbers" was invented and applied to this branch of national business. This fact stands officially recorded. For Great Britain the Board of Trade publishes tables which prove it, and such, or their own private statistics, are regularly printed in leading commercial journals. Continental scientists also regularly publish their independent statements of these 'index numbers.' The truly marvelous fact above stated is thus capable of absolute verification by each one for himself, and if this does not prove silver to be the true and world-wide standard of value then there is no significance in facts. The metal gold, on the contrary, tried by the same supreme test, shows itself to be in no sense a 'standard' of value, for it jumps about like the mercury in a barometer with every movement of the commercial atmosphere, its vibrations—to speak within the fact—having dodged about, up and down, as much as 20 per cent down from a given point and then back to that point, and then 20 per cent up from that same point, all within the short space of forty or fifty years!"

Then COIN continued: "One of these tables by index numbers appears on page 469 of this report of the Treasury Department, from which we have been reading, which I will clip together with the note that appears therewith and hand to the stenographer that it may appear in the report of this controversy."

The note and table clipped and read to those present are as follows :

NOTE.—The following are the figures of Mr. Augustus Sauerbeck, published by the Royal Statistical Society of London. The average prices of ten years (1868 to 1877) are taken as 100, and upon that basis the figures given below for the separate years' result, showing a persistent decline of prices in every department of industry.

Year.	Vegetable food (wheat, etc.)	Animal food (meat, etc.)	Sugar, coffee, and tea.	Total food.	Miner- als.	Tex- tiles.	Sundry mate- rials.	Total mate- rials.	Grand total.
1873	106	109	106	107	141	103	106	114	111
1874	105	103	105	104	116	92	96	100	102
1875	93	108	100	100	101	88	92	93	96
1876	92	108	98	99	90	85	95	91	95
1877	100	101	103	101	84	85	94	89	94
1878	95	101	90	96	74	78	88	81	87
1879	87	94	87	90	73	74	85	78	83
1880	89	101	88	94	79	81	89	84	88
1881	84	101	84	91	77	77	86	80	85
1882	84	104	76	80	79	73	85	80	84
1883	82	103	77	89	76	70	84	77	82
1884	71	97	63	79	68	68	81	73	76
1885	68	88	63	74	66	65	76	70	72
1886	65	87	60	72	67	63	69	67	69
1887	64	79	67	70	69	65	67	67	68
1888	67	82	65	72	78	64	67	69	70
1889	65	86	75	75	75	70	68	70	72
1890	65	82	70	73	80	66	69	71	72
1891	75	81	71	77	76	59	69	68	72

"The table has only been brought down to 1891," said the little bimetallist, "but all present know to what ruinously low figures these same commodities have declined since, except coffee and tea, which are held up by trusts that control more or less the supply of these two articles. The producer gets no more, but the consumer pays more, the margin going to Mr. Arbuckle and others who by the unjust use of large fortunes can do such things."

"These facts, these figures, Mr. Garnett, are my answer to your statement," concluded the little advocate of the people's money.

And then, as Mr. Garnett did not immediately renew the attack, COIN added :

"When one metal alone is depended upon for a 'standard' the varying supply of that metal causes prices to rise and fall with it, which is the opposite of stability. The supply of gold for the world has ebbed and flowed, as a study of the table of production will show.

"There is another reason," he continued, "why gold is not a 'stable measure of value.' It is small in bulk, and is owned and controlled by the few and rich. They are not only able to corner it, but their selfishness inclines them to do so. In fact, it is now cornered. It is not so easy to corner two metals as it is one. Silver circulates to the very pores of civilization, while gold coagulates near the heart. If wheat and corn were money—it is not practical but it will illustrate my meaning—on a ratio, say, of 2 to 1, then to unduly advance the price of money commodity, both would have to be manipulated instead of one. The bulls would have a double task to perform. So it is with gold and silver. Gold as the basis of monetary system is impracticable and impossible. There is no precedent for it in the monetary history of the world. The twenty years experience we have had in getting down to it has broken the back of this country, and demonstrated its impracticability. It is the money of the rich and few, and is subject to combinations and manipulations that prevent its being made an equitable and stable standard of values. *No property, the amount and supply of which does not automatically regulate itself and circulate among all the people can be made the basis of a monetary system.* Gold, as the basis of a monetary system, is quickened, ever shifting and unreliable."

Mr. Garnett was about to speak when COIN raised his hand to detain him. He had not yet finished.

The little financier was now pouring hot shot into the man from the Golden-Gate.



GOLD IS QUICKSAND, EVER SHIFTING AND UNRELIABLE.

"There is another reason, Mr. Garnett, why for us it cannot be a stable measure of value. We are a debtor nation — it means low prices — we must ever produce to feed the interest-gatherer. England now has all of

the spare gold, and we have been compelled to go to her to get the last we used. The Rothschilds now own one-half the gold of the world, available for use as money, and their aids and satellites own nearly all the remainder. If they owned it all they could put it in their big safe and turn the lock on it. As it is, they demand their price as they did the other day from us. *The gold Mr. Cleveland wanted could not have been obtained except from the Rothschilds.* The American bankers refused to furnish it, and the Englishmen demanded their price, which was \$8,000,000 to simply unlock their vaults. And this is what you call," he concluded, "'a metal possessing all the elements of stability of value in a more eminent degree than any other product of nature,'" and COIN paused with his arms folded across his breast and looked straight at the monometallist.

And then he added: "Suppose you had contracts with the wheat brokers of Chicago for more wheat to be delivered to you than there was wheat in the world! And these brokers were in the market trying to buy the wheat wherewith to pay you—bidding against each other for the wheat—trying to get it to pay you before it was all gone. Such a condition would force up the exchangeable value of wheat with money and other property. Right here in Chicago at the present time there are more contracts to pay gold—notes, bonds and mortgages—secured upon its real estate, its railways and enterprises than there is gold in the world. And these people who owe this gold are trying to get it by exchanging their property for gold, or money that will get the gold. Hence, gold in exchange for property, commands a high premium. As expressed in dollars, property buys very few of them."

The aged "expert," with scores of years experience, was staggered. He was accustomed to expressing himself, as those who have heard him and read his articles are aware, in high-sounding phrases and big words. Had he been met in the same way, both disputants could have reveled—in theory—in the clouds, and neither would have understood the other when they had finished. This practical opposition he had met with was not to his liking, but it suited the business men present. Here was something they could appreciate ; it was the kind of reasoning they applied to their business.

The expert concluded to shift his position.

"I claim," he said, "that the increased supply of gold has furnished an ample quantity for the needs of the world as a money metal, and that this increase has been enormous in the last few years.

"Adopting Dr. Soetbeer's table," he continued, "up to and including 1879, and the tables of the Director of the Mint since that date, we find that for the twenty-eight years from 1866 to 1893—the period of the so-called 'contraction of the currency,' and of falling values—the world's product of gold exceeded \$3,276,000,000, or \$116,000,000 *in excess of the product for 358 years* from the discovery of America to the year 1851 ; while the product of silver aggregated \$3,063,000,000, making a joint output of \$6,339,000,000, or an excess of over \$3,781,000,000, or 150 per cent, as compared with the joint product from 1851 to 1865, the period of maximum output in the history of the metals to that date, and of the inflated prices alleged to have resulted therefrom. This excess greatly exceeds the increase of either commerce or population for the same period, and if there is any foundation for the theory that prices are dependent upon the volume of money in circulation as compared

with the volume of the commodities upon the market, then prices should have advanced to a figure never before witnessed in modern times ; instead of which there has been a depression wholly unexampled."

" Mr. Garnett," COIN replied, " you make the same mistake that Mr. Gunn made. You forget to reckon with silver as primary money in previous years and with gold only as primary money since 1873. And now I want to show you how unfair you have been. You state that the amount of gold produced in the world for the 28 years from 1866 to 1893 is more than all the gold produced by the world from 1492 to 1851. Now I am not going to deal in accusations of doctored statistics since the administrations of most of the governments of the world have become the willing instruments of the money power, as I might well do, but I am going to answer you in a way that will be sufficient. It is this :

" While statistics show that the small quantity of gold you state was produced during the 358 year period you name, it also shows, which you fail to state, that the production of silver for that period was \$6,600,000,000, which answered the purpose of money in the place of gold. And while you fail to state this important fact, you do give the amount of silver produced from 1866 to 1893 covering a period during most of which it was a rejected metal—was not money. You have tried to make the quantity of money metal produced by the world since a certain year you select show as great as possible, while purposely concealing this item of \$6,600,000,000 during the previous period, which it is to your purpose to make appear small.

" And you," and COIN paused a moment and looked earnestly at the expert—" were once an officer of the United States Mint. If you gentlemen succeed as well

in covering up facts in your official (?) statistics as you do in your statements and articles you will finally *apparently* corroborate some statement that you may make. The remainder of your statement is as much misleading as the first portion of it. You next compare the period of 28 years with the previous 14 years, 1851 to 1866, and say the 28 years total was greater by 150 per cent. It should be 200 per cent greater to hold its own, as you are dealing with 28 years as against 14. You were not dealing in averages but in totals. You also again count silver in as money in the period of 28 years. You reject silver as money when it comes to using it as *money*, and count it when swelling your statistics of *money*.

"If you want to make a fair comparison of gold for the two periods it would be as follows :

Gold produced (world) 1852 to 1866, 14

years\$1,950,000,000

Gold produced (world) 1866 to 1880, 14

years\$1,800,000,000

" Making less gold for the last 14 years than for the former 14 years, with a large increase in population and business during the latter period, as against the former period."

" During the former period of 14 years the amount of gold used in the arts and manufactures was not more than fifty per cent of the quantity used in the latter 14 years. Thus to this extent also increasing the demand for gold."

While COIN had been answering this statement he had torn from the Treasury report a leaf containing the production of the gold and silver of the world from 1492 to 1893. His answer had been based on figures taken from it. He now handed it to the official reporter.

It is as follows :

STATEMENT OF THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER IN
THE WORLD SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

[From 1493 to 1885 is from table of averages for certain periods compiled by Dr. Adolph Soetbeer. For the years 1886-1892 the production is the annual estimate of the Bureau of the Mint.]

Years.	Gold. Value.	Silver. Coining Value.
1493-1520	\$ 107,931,000	\$ 54,703,000
1521-1544	114,205,000	89,986,000
1545-1560	90,492,000	207,240,000
1561-1580	90,917,000	248,990,000
1581-1600	98,095,000	348,254,000
1601-1620	113,248,000	351,579,000
1621-1640	110,324,000	327,221,000
1641-1660	116,571,000	304,525,000
1661-1680	123,084,000	280,166,000
1681-1700	143,088,000	284,240,000
1701-1720	170,403,000	295,629,000
1721-1740	253,611,000	358,480,000
1741-1760	327,116,000	443,232,000
1761-1780	275,211,000	542,658,000
1781-1800	236,464,000	730,810,000
1801-1810	118,152,000	371,677,000
1811-1820	76,063,000	224,786,000
1821-1830	94,479,000	191,444,000
1831-1840	134,841,000	247,930,000
1841-1850	363,928,000	324,400,000
1851-1855	662,566,000	184,169,000
1856-1860	670,415,000	188,092,000
1861-1865	614,944,000	228,861,000
1866-1870	648,071,000	278,313,000
1871-1875	577,033,000	409,322,000
1876-1880	572,931,000	509,256,000
1881-1885	495,582,000	594,773,000
1886	106,000,000	120,600,000
1887	105,302,000	124,366,000
1888	109,900,000	142,107,000
1889	118,800,000	162,690,000
1890	113,150,000	172,235,000
1891	120,519,000	186,733,000
1892	130,817,000	196,605,000
Total.	\$8,204,303,000	\$ 9,176,072,000

COIN then added to what he had said :

" During the first period you name, 1492 to 1851, the world was emerging from the dark ages in which the contraction of production of the precious metals had placed it, and silver was the metal mostly instrumental in making this progress."



A COMPLEX PROPOSITION. AS IT LOOKS WHEN EXPLAINED.

In the meantime, while COIN had been making his answer, the face of the Californian had turned red. He had been accused of making misleading statements, and this had made him mad. That it was true that he had done so, only served to add assumed anger to real anger. The little financier was cool and composed, and was not disturbed in the least by the manner of the expert. He had seen these and other misrepresentations in print, but this was the first time that he had met face to face with one of the men making them, and he did not consider it an occasion for politeness, so he met it squarely.

Mr. Head and the other money-lenders present were getting uneasy. With their champion losing his temper, they began losing hope, and they all moved uneasily in their seats. The bimetallists present were all in a good humor. They wanted to see the other side get well pounded, and they were now seeing it.

"You forget another thing," said COIN, as Mr. Garnett paced the floor in an agitated and excited manner. "During the previous period to which you refer there were few debts in the world. Money was scarcely ever loaned outside of one's neighborhood where the creditor could look at the property on which the loan was made. In later years railways and telegraph wires and general intercommunication have caused this business of loaning money to expand till men loan money at a great distance without ever seeing the property on which the loan is made, and it has now reached a magnitude unprecedented, amazing and alarming.

"These facilities, and this custom of expanding the business of loaning money," he continued, "has also brought with it the same facility for contracting these loans. Wall street can use the wire and set in motion the contraction of the currency throughout the United States in twenty-four hours by reason of these debts. England can do the same thing throughout the world in forty-eight hours. There is nothing so dangerous to the stability of a currency as debts, and with the improved facilities for interchange of business and the transmission of intelligence, London, under our present financial system, can pull financial strings on the world. The greatest study of this whole problem is debts. Under a gold standard we will suffer from congested chills financially till total prostration comes."

It was now getting dark, and the electric lights were turned on. The room was densely packed with the business men of Chicago, and with many strangers from outside the city, and several men of national reputation were present.

The contest had been in progress except one hour's intermission at noon, since 9:30 in the morning, and the little champion of the people was as cool and self-contained as when it began. All present hung with rapt attention on every word that was uttered. The bankers had crowded to the front, expecting a victory. Among them were John C. Croft, cashier of the Bankers' National Bank ; F. M. Blount, cashier of the Chicago National Bank ; John Worthy, president of the Commercial Loan and Trust Company ; John C. Black, president of the Continental National Bank ; John A. Lynch, president of the National Bank of the Republic ; Byron L. Smith, president of the Northern Trust Company, and Chas. L. Hutchinson, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank.

Close up against the money-lenders were prominent merchants and journalists. Two conspicuous figures were among the latter ; one was James W. Scott, of the *Herald*, who had, with the assistance of the bankers, just purchased the *Times*, and muzzled that organ of the people by shutting it down and bringing out under a gold banner the *Times-Herald*. Sitting near him, with a good-natured and benevolent smile on his face, was the great bimetallist, Wm. Penn Nixon, proprietor of the *Inter Ocean*, and leader in the great revolution that was at hand in behalf of human happiness and human liberty. Around the sides and farther end of the room the people were standing densely packed, and in the rear center group loomed up the tall form of Eugene V. Debs, who

had been for over a year a conspicuous figure and an able leader of one of the contending forces in the social disorder produced by the conditions now under discussion.

All eyes were on the gold standard advocate, who was chafing under the lashing he was receiving. He made a supreme effort to control himself.

He advanced a statement to show that large issues of "uncovered paper money" had relieved the pressure on the "money mass," but COIN quickly answered him that it was not a question of paper money, but a question of where the gold was to come from to redeem it; that the more "uncovered paper money" issued the *greater* the pressure on the "money mass."

The expert retorted :

"Mulhall tells us that 'since 1840 the banking of the world has increased about eleven-fold, that is, three times as fast as commerce, or thirty times faster than population.'

"If to these instrumentalities," he continued, "we add the vast sums represented by the bills of exchange arising from the phenomenal expansion of commerce and travel within the same period, or growing out of the enormous carrying trade of the world incident thereto—the underwritten risks—international dealings in funded securities, foreign loans and speculative stocks, all which, to a greater or less extent, perform the functions of money in the transfer of credits and the liquidation of balances, we shall have a volume of the various "signs of value" wholly unexampled in the history of the world. The logical tendency of this should have been to produce a rise in prices, or, *e converso*, a fall in the value of money. On the contrary, we are confronted with a great fall in prices, as alleged, from an appreciation of gold."

COIN replied :

" Your first proposition as to rapid increase in banking, only argues that this class of business is absorbing all others. Your second proposition only emphasizes the importance of primary money, and proves that such a currency as you refer to is not a measure of values, as it does not increase prices. It shows the necessity of more primary money to support it."

Mr. Garnett then made a long statement to show that less gold was needed now to settle balances between nations than ever before, and made a similar statement concerning exchanges, drafts and checks used in these settlements.

The little fellow replied that the expert was theorizing and, on the same line of reasoning, if our exports and imports were equal, then we would need no gold; checks, drafts and bills of exchange would settle it all and we would need no money, and then he turned suddenly to Mr. Garnett and called his attention to the constant and large shipments of gold to Europe and the world-wide strain on this metal and asked him why this demand, with all the world talking about gold, if there were a sufficient quantity of primary money?

The expert did not hear the question put to him or did not care to answer it. He came back with this proposition :

" In attempting to discover the true cause of the general fall in prices, or of the industrial and commercial depression resulting therefrom, it is important to consider those portentous changes that have occurred in the economic conditions of the past quarter of a century affecting, for better or for worse, all the activities of human industry. Among these we may enumerate, as specially applying to this country, the enormous increase

of productive energy, by reason of the abnormal increase in population, which, by immigration alone, exceeds that of thirteen such States as the State of Maine—an empire within itself. Within the same period there have been issued over 430,000 patents for new inventions and labor-saving devices, immensely stimulating, while reducing the cost of production. To these agencies may be added an abnormal increase in the facilities of rapid transit, exceeding 440 per cent since 1860, greatly cheapening the cost of transportation, while stimulating competition among home producers by making all the industrial and commercial centers accessible to all sections of the country, and, to that extent, reducing prices."

COIN replied :

"The things you have mentioned have set in motion a thousand new industries that were before unknown—all needing money. With improved houses come new and costly fixtures. With new inventions come new uses for new materials. The discovery of gas and electric lights gave employment to thousands to manufacture and supply the place of the tallow dip and candle that were of home manufacture. The equipment and conduct of railroads give employment to tens of thousands of men who would otherwise be idle. All this requires an increased volume of money. To argue that progress and inventions produce a condition that requires less money is a sad perversion of logic. To reverse the proposition would be easier for you. As we go back to the log-cabin and bull-team, less money is necessary. As we grow, more money is necessary, and the faster it circulates the greater the evaporation. The more a man exercises the faster the blood courses through his veins—the more blood is necessary—the more he must

eat. The same is true of the blood of commerce. New inventions increase the necessity for money. It is not improved facilities that have lowered prices, it is the want of primary money in proportion to the demand made for it by these improved facilities."

"But," said Mr. Garnett as he drew himself together to make what he considered an unanswerable argument in favor of his position, one that would retrieve the ground he had lost if he could make it hold together, "I deny, and support my position by the best test that can be made, that gold has appreciated in value." He paused a moment adjusting his glasses and then partially reading from his pamphlet and in part speaking without its aid he continued :

"If we compare the value of gold, as measured by its purchasing power, with the prices of leading funded securities founded upon material wealth and national credit—with farming-land, towns and city property—or with the wages of labor as paid in leading industries, and which, in this country alone, largely exceed *annually* all the metallic money of the world, we shall find that so far from gold having 'appreciated' or risen in value during the period of 'falling prices' designated, it has *perceptibly depreciated and shows a marked loss of purchasing-power*. This will be clearly indicated by the following statement of the value of farming-land and the wages of factory-hands as shown by the census returns for the past forty years:

FARM LANDS.

	Gross value.	Value per acre.
1850	\$ 3,272,000,000.	\$11.14
1860	6,645,000,000.	16.27
1880	10,197,000,000.	19.02
1890	13,279,000,000.	21.31

"There is no way of determining the increased value of town and city property, but it is within the knowledge of every intelligent person that it has been relatively much greater than that of farming-lands."

He then read from statistics as follows :

ANNUAL WAGES PAID IN THE FACTORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. of employees.	Total wages paid.	Average per capita
1850 . . . 957,059	\$ 236,755,464	\$247
1860 . . . 1,311,246	378,878,966	288
1880 . . . 2,732,595	947,953,795	346
1890 . . . 4,711,832	2,282,823,265	484

"While we cannot ascertain definitely," he continued, "the increase of wages in other industries, it is known to be very considerable. We find, for example, that in 1880, 286,593 teachers in public schools received an average salary of \$195 per annum, while in 1890, 363,922 teachers received an average of \$251—equivalent to an increase of nearly 30 per cent. Railroad traffic also furnishes further proofs of the general rise in wages. The census year of 1889, as compared with that of 1879, shows that the "operating expenses" of the rail system of the United States rose from something less than 58 per cent of gross earnings, to over 66 per cent; and they increased nearly 24 per cent in excess of the increase of earnings. And while this increase in percentage is, to some extent, due to the reduction in rates of transportation, operating expenses consists so largely of labor that it is evident that a marked increase of wages in this important branch of traffic must have taken place.

"All this," he concluded, "goes to prove that gold as compared with all the more stable and permanent forms of material wealth has perceptibly *depreciated* and not *appreciated*."

There was a rustle among the bankers present as they changed positions in their seats and smiled into each other's faces. They had always regarded this proposition as one that could not be answered and now they looked for it to make a breach into which their champion would walk and close for them this intellectual contest in exultant victory. But the past experience of the day was to them on second thought a warning of what might come, so in common with all others present they leaned forward and every ear was alert to hear the reply.

During the putting of the last question two prominent bimetallic bankers had entered the room. They were W. A. Hammond, Vice-President of the National Bank of Illinois and Mr. John P. St. John of New York City.

There was absolute stillness. Every word uttered by the little bimetallist was heard with ease by those in the most remote portions of the room. It was the calm before the storm to follow, culminating as it did later in the most affecting scene that probably ever took place in a political discussion.

"At times you argue," said the little Statesman, addressing the expert, "that improved facilities, over-production and heavy immigration have lowered prices of everything, including labor, to account for the appreciated purchasing power of gold, and now you carefully select technical statistics to prove the contrary theory. You should be able to see your error and that there is an explanation for this seeming inconsistency.

"You cite farming lands and give their value per acre from 1850 to 1890, showing an increase in value per acre, and give no credit for this rise in price to the conditions that surrounded these lands at the different periods. You argue as if the same conditions then and now existed. In 1850 a farm near Chicago was priced

per acre at \$1.25, the government's price. Then came improvements upon these farms that you do not allow for. Then came this great city making a demand for



THE DOUBLE ACT.

everything that could be raised on these farms. Like conditions have prevailed in all the United States, especially west of the Alleghany Mountains. If you had

taken a farm in the suburbs of this city and started in 1850 with its acreage price at \$1.25 you could have had for your table of figures in 1890 \$200 per acre. Standing upon this false basis you could have proven, erroneously, that gold was an exceedingly depreciated article. It was unfortunate for you that you selected farm lands to prove the depreciation of gold," and COIN smiled as he looked into the face of the aged expert. "And yet as crude as it is," he continued, "it is similar to all the facts you people select upon which to construct your theories."

"You further cite," continued COIN, "that school teachers in 1880 received an average annual salary of \$195, and later in 1890, \$251, equivalent to an increase of 30 per cent. You might have gone further and shown the increase in the salaries of Congressmen, and of the President's salary advanced from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Neither the quantity of money in circulation nor the purchasing power of the dollar fixes the salaries of school teachers or other officers. Salaries of public officers are fixed by official bodies and by legislation, and not by supply and demand as is the exchangeable value of gold and all other property. The payment of these salaries falls principally upon the producers of the country, and if you will measure these salaries in the products it takes to pay them you will find that salaries have advanced even much more greatly than you have stated. To advance these salaries under the circumstances is an injustice to the over-burdened producers. By a strange perversion of logic you use this injustice to try to sustain your position which is equally unjust.

"You say that wages paid in factories have advanced from an annual average of \$247 in 1850 to \$484 in 1890, and use these figures to show that gold has not appreciated."

COIN paused for a full minute after stating this proposition and walked to and fro on the platform, all the time looking at the expert. His side as he thus walked was toward Mr. Garnett, but his head turned and his eyes were ever riveted upon the gold standard man. The little fellow seemed to be unconscious of the presence of any one in the room but that of the man who had made this statement. He had apparently lost all consciousness of his physical being, and his whole existence at that moment was a mental existence. The question had touched in him a spot that no other question of the day had reached. That look was a premonition to the aged expert of the crushing answer that was to come.

"Experts, sir," he began, as he stopped with his hands behind him and with that same look in his eyes, "in the gathering of census statistics are familiar with its unreliable methods and the policy that prompts it. The man to whom the census agent addresses this question is the manufacturer. In answering he does not purposely deceive, but he has a selfish interest in making it appear large and he exaggerates. But, I do not mean that these figures are wholly wrong. To answer you I do not need to rely on them in the least. In 1850 there were few skilled laborers in this country, the increase in the number of this class of employes in thirty years was probably 2,000 per cent. They increased with railroads, telegraph lines, electric lines, and with the operation of tens of thousands of inventions. These skilled men commanded large wages, and by reason of their relative increase in numbers, any statistical information now as to the average wages per capita of factory employes would, even under depressed conditions, show as much or more than it did in 1850.

"But there is another reason," he continued, "why this class of labor has not suffered a reduction in wages in proportion to the reduced prices of products. It is because they have formed themselves into unions, by which they have been enabled to resist, in part, the pressure that is ever trying to press them down. Manufacturers with depleted purses from a decline in the selling price of their products, at last compelled to reduce wages or go into bankruptcy, know that to put a new scale of wages in operation they face a 'lockout' or a 'strike.' Labor stands like a stone wall stubbornly resisting. This is the reason why wages in manufactures and wherever labor is organized, have not been reduced proportionately with wheat, cotton and other staples. But when you take the number of laborers out of employment by reason of the present industrial situation—who would take work if they could get it—and put them down in your table of statistics and with them included in taking the average, you will find that labor has suffered as much as have products by the decline in prices. There are 4,000,000 of enforced idle laborers in this country. Mr. Garnett, would you not include them in any just calculation? Your estimate does not include them.

"And your statement is not true," he continued, still talking direct to the monometallist. "We do not believe statistics that tell us that wages are advancing, when we know from actual experience that they are declining. We know that 200,000 coal miners within the year have suffered a reduction of ten per cent; 100,000 railroad men fifteen per cent.

"These are things the people know, and dry statistics that contradict a fact are very uninteresting to them. The people here, for instance, in Chicago, know that

there was a reduction in wages of 30 per cent at Pullman, followed by the great strike, and should you at some time in the future show by statistics that during the year 1894 the wages of the employes in this manufacture at Pullman received an advance in wages you may convince some theorist, but you will not convince any one who knows to the contrary. Labor organizations, even with the assistance of their unions, are no longer able to stand against the pressure that is pulling them down.

"Telegraph operators in the last ten years have been reduced from an average of \$60 per month to \$30.

"Nearly all railroads have made a reduction in the wages of their employes in the last nine months of 15 per cent, and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in the land from which you come has recently made a reduction in its men's wages. The section men on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad ten years ago received \$1.25 per day, now they get 67½ cents. The wages of the Typographical Union of Chicago has been reduced in the last year about 11 per cent.

"Skilled woodworkers in the Singer Sewing Machine Company now average only 88 cents per day, and in the Studebaker Wagon Works 90 cents per day. These men are expected to pay their house rent, clothe and feed their families and themselves on this amount of money. It is not sufficient. Necessity compels the wife and children to go to work and the small pittance they all get proves oftentimes too little and the hours of labor are then increased.

"Just imagine, Mr. Garnett," he continued, "your statistics being read to one of these people, and of your telling them that if they will examine the statistics they will find they are much better off than they had any idea

they were. It is the same argument that was made in the days of chattel slavery.

"At a convention of farmers in Mississippi the other day it was decided to put down the wages of farm laborers to six dollars per month; in 1873 it was more than double that sum.



"Where unions have not existed," he continued, "the decline in wages has been equal to the decline in the price of products. The day laborer has been reduced from \$2 to \$1. The store clerks from about \$12 in 1873 to \$6 in 1895. The female clerks in the stores of Chicago do not receive more than enough to scantily board and

clothe them, and most of them do not receive that much. I know a cigar manufacturer in this city, Mr. Garnett, who employs boys to strip tobacco for \$2 a week, and they ship to Detroit most of their tobacco to be stripped, where it is stripped by boys, who work for 75 cents a week. There is a law here that makes trouble for them with the employment of boys, but in Detroit they are not thus embarrassed and they can pay freight both ways and, by using the little hands and arms and bodies and souls of these little fellows in Detroit, they can get the work done for less than it will cost them here, paying boys two dollars per week." As COIN had uttered the words embraced in this paragraph he had held out his arms toward Mr. Garnett in the attitude of one making an appeal. His tone and manner were an appeal to the expert and the class he represented to desist from the course they were pursuing.

"The report of the inspector of factories for this State," continued the little humanitarian, "tells a pathetic story to which the ears of you money changers are deaf. It tells you of little children, who should be at home under the tender influence of their mothers, crowded into factories and shops; of little boys running foot power machines whose doom is consumption of the lungs or intestines; of little girls during their years of growth when the bones and muscles are set as bent, whose backs grow crooked in hemming and sewing on buttons at 50 to 80 cents a week; and it tells of 302 little boys of about 14 years of age and 18 girls employed at the Stock Yards, standing ankle-deep in water used for flooding the floor for carrying off blood and refuse, doing work of the most brutalizing nature, some of them cutting bones with buzz-saws, placed within fifty feet of drying racks where skulls and horns

are scorching over a flame and the smell of the smoking bones and hides excels in horror anything the sensitive imagination can conceive.



AT THE CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

"These are some of the sad facts you will get, sir, if you will read this report of the State Factory Inspector. Are the lives and characters of these children worth nothing in your estimation? Would not their laughter

sound more pleasantly in your ears than the ring of the dollars you have been used to coining in the mint?"

As COIN uttered the last sentence he had walked down to where Mr. Garnett stood and was now looking up into his face.

A strange feeling had come over the man. He had heard each of his statements answered. Answered so fully that he could not help but see it himself. The scales had fallen from his eyes. He saw now the metal which he had previously thought possessed all the elements of stability of value in a more eminent degree than any other product of nature, or than any product of man's ingenuity, made, by this same ingenuity of man to which he had referred, the willing tool and instrument of the money kings as they tied this great government up in a contract and made it look to them for the money necessary for its commercial subsistence. He had seen his attempt to conceal the \$6,600,000,000 of silver coined in the world since the discovery of America and prior to 1851 exposed, and in his own mind he was ready to admit the injustice of his statement and comparisons.

He had seen his other fallacies laid bare, and recognized the unfairness of his selection of farm lands and salaries by which to test the appreciation of gold, and now he knew and felt that any statistics he could read as to the wages of labor could not overcome the realistic fact present in the minds of everyone that labor was struggling underpaid and half starved in the throes of social disorder. And, as this feeling came sweeping over him, conviction came with it. But it was conviction with a peculiar effect.

If the reader has ever been at revival meetings in the Methodist church, he has probably seen a person when converted, affected so as to stand rigid and stiff with

eyes fixed and unable to speak, though apparently conscious of all that is going on around. This was the effect that Mr. Garnett's conversion had upon him ; his eyes were apparently fixed upon some one spot in the side of the room near the ceiling, and his body had grown rigid and stiff.

The boy had now approached him and stood by his side.

" What remedy for these conditions do you monometallists offer, Mr. Garnett ? " he asked, and, getting no answer, he pulled the sleeve of the man's coat and continued :

" The country has been under your law now for 22 years and it has not produced good results ; why is it, if you are right ? "

As COIN had approached his antagonist, a newspaper reporter had vacated a chair near and in front of the expert and taken his seat on one of the reporters' tables. The little school teacher stepped into the chair, and this brought his face about on a level with the expert's.

" Mr. Garnett," he continued, " the effect of demonetization is that debtors are losing their property as they cannot exchange it for enough of these dear dollars with which to pay their debts. *Debts do not decline with other property,*" and as he said this, he pulled a memorandum from his side coat pocket and continued :

" Figures furnished by the government bureau of statistics show that the number of landowners is rapidly declining in all sections of the country, and that the number of tenant farmers is as rapidly increasing. The land of the United States is destined to fall into the hands of a class of large landed proprietors, who will rent it out in small parcels to the actual tillers of the soil, and the pernicious system of landlordism which now rules in

England and Europe will become firmly established here. In the decade between 1880 and 1890, according to the census figures, the number of families owning their own



COIN AND THE CONVERTED EXPERT.

farms decreased in every New England State and the number of tenant farmers increased correspondingly. The decrease in the first case amounted to 24,117 fami-

lies, and the increase in the second was 7,246. The percentage of tenants was double in 1890 what it was in 1880. In Vermont and Connecticut the increase of tenants was 17 per cent and in Rhode Island it was 25 per cent. In the Middle States the owners decreased by 42,304 and the tenants increased by 24,075. In New York the decrease of owners was 26,534 and the increase in tenants 12,108. In Pennsylvania the figures were 11,292 and 9,222 respectively. In Ohio, Indiana and Illinois the loss in ownership was 31,259 and the gain in tenants 48,864.

"It will not do to argue," COIN continued, with his face not two feet from that of the expert's, who had not moved a muscle in the meantime, "that the change indicated is more apparent than real, and that the true cause of it is the abandonment by old families in the East of their worn-out farms for the more fruitful and easily worked lands of the West, because the same state of things exists in the West. In Iowa, for example, the number of tenant farmers increased in the decade by 16,563, while the owners only increased by 3,521. In the forty-nine States and Territories of the Union the number of owners increased by 158,951, while the number of tenants increased by 599,237. In 1880 tenants cultivated 25.69 per cent of the farms in the country. In 1890 the percentage had increased to 34.13.

✓ "Is not such a situation serious, Mr. Garnett, and does it not portend the downfall of the republic?"

There was no answer to his question. The man had not changed his position or a single feature or the expression of his eyes since going into the trance-like state in which he had been placed. The little humanitarian was also unconscious of the presence of all others save the one man to whom he was talking, and he seemed to

act and to so address the man as if he felt that he was being heard and understood.

It would be hard to describe the feeling and sensation that pervaded the audience. It was a strange scene. Those at the side of the room had closed in, and all, except probably fifty people nearest to the disputants, were now standing. The situation was extremely sensational and the influence and effect of what the little fellow had said was to make many converts in the audience. The scene they were witnessing was strange, but one fraught with tremendous results for the welfare of the nation.

"When people ask you, Mr. Garnett," continued the little fellow, "what a dollar is, tell it to them in some simple and plain way that they will understand. For instance, say to them: 'That if apples were dollars and a man went into the market with a good saddle horse, the horse would sell for thousands of *dollars*, but if bushels of wheat were dollars the horse would bring probably less than 100 *dollars*.' That, it is what primary dollars are made of, that measures the value of other property as expressed in dollars. Also tell them that if they gave their notes when apples were dollars and had to pay them when bushels of wheat were dollars it would bankrupt them."

"Mr. Garnett," the boy continued, "what injury can be inflicted by remonetizing silver? [It was taken away from the people by a secret measure, why not restore to them that which they never, with their consent, parted with?] Do not tell the people that it was known, for they can go to the files of any newspaper published that year and see that the *newspapers* did not know it.

"With its demonetization," he continued, as he laid one hand on one of the expert's shoulders, "came de-

pression. Ever since then, as from the tightening of some great screw, the people have felt the effect produced by the destruction of their money. The word 'tramp' was unknown before 1873; it was coined that year. Carroll D. Wright, U. S. Labor Commissioner, Mr. Garnett, says there are now 4,000,000 of workmen out of employment in this country. That represents ten to fifteen million of our people—men, women and children. They are suffering, Mr. Garnett. The rich can shut their eyes to it, and can go into their comfortable or palatial homes unconscious of anyone's sense of feeling or pangs of hunger save their own, but this unhappiness and suffering and degradation of character are all about us. A railroad train the other day killed a horse in Spring Valley, and, an hour later, the starving women and children of the neighborhood were cutting up the horse for food. Here



POOR PEOPLE EATING HORSE FLESH.

is a picture of the scene as photographed by the *Times* correspondent, Mr. Garnett."

As COIN said this, he pulled from his pocket the
referred to, a reproduction of which appears here.

in, and held it up before the eyes of the expert. And then he read to Mr. Garnett from the report of the occurrence as it appeared in the *Chicago Times* as follows:

"SPRING VALLEY, ILL., Feb. 2.—A winter landscape. The driving wind has left the weather side of the hill almost bare of snow and has piled up large banks on the protected side. A town lies scattered over the hillside, and on the highest elevation, the steeple of a spacious frame church bears aloft the simple cross that indicates its denomination. At the foot of the steep hillside stretches a broad valley, in the midst of it a wide band of smooth ice indicates the course of a deep and peaceful river. Along the foot of the hill runs a single track of railroad. A train pulls out from the station. It is too late for the farmer's wagon to cross at the roadway near the station. The engine strikes the horse, the driver saves himself, but the horse is killed. The authorities of the town are notified to remove the carcass. A few hours elapse before the officers arrive with an improvised ambulance. What has become of the horse? They find only skin and bones. Upward along the hillside the eye catches a few stragglers, boys and women, carrying the last pieces of the flesh of the animal away to their homes. It is the first time for months that they have fresh meat to eat. That night there is feasting in many a miserable hovel in the little town."

"It is the rule now, Mr. Garnett, whenever these sad facts are mentioned, for the rich to decry its being spoken of and use obscene language toward those who speak of it. They do this because to mention it disturbs them in their money making. Is it any wonder Christ said 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.' These selfish men acted in his day just as they are acting now. Their ears are deaf to the cry of distress, their hearts beat not in sympathy with the unfortunate, and their prejudice is aroused by any one

who points them to these conditions, or seeks to remove the special privileges upon which they are feasting and fattening. Their influence has taken away from the religion of Christ all but its form and its charity. The wisdom and intelligence of that religion has been abandoned."

COIN then read to Mr. Garnett a letter from George E. Alexander, of 61 Edwards Avenue, Springfield, Ohio, in which Mr. Alexander had said to the little Statesman:

" My shopmates here are so paralyzed with poverty that many have lost all courage to fight plutocracy. In other words they have consented to slavery. This is cowardice and is unworthy of the sons of the men who fought the battles for independence in 1776."

" But what should touch us most, Mr. Garnett, is the effect that these conditions are having upon the children forced to work prematurely for a living. Their little faces should be living petitions for their relief, and the removal of the sort of civilization that produces their want and suffering."

And then he repeated in that soft appealing tone in which he had been addressing Mr. Garnett, while tears fell from many eyes in the room, Mrs. Browning's words :

" Do ye hear the children weeping, O my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?
They are leaning their young hearts against their mothers,
And THAT cannot stop their tears.
The young lambs are bleating in the meadows;
The young birds are chirping in the nest;
The young fawns are playing with the shadows;
The young flowers are blowing towards the west;
But the young, young children, O my brothers,
They are weeping bitterly;
They are weeping in the playtime of the others,
In the country that is free."

COIN stepped down from the chair in which he had been standing and spoke to one of Mr. Garnett's friends, who, with others, after some little trouble, unbent the expert's legs and relaxed sufficiently his muscles to seat him in a chair.

The little financier in the meantime had returned to the platform. All eyes had watched each motion in this strange drama and an intense stillness, such as would attend a funeral was the effect first produced. This quiet continued till after the boy had returned to the platform. Then, a wave of emotion went through the audience as they comprehended the fullness of this victory of the little champion—the champion of the people—and then there was applause; such applause as one seldom hears, that filled the room, and spoke with a patriotic eloquence that could only be appreciated fully by those who have fled from oppression and witnessed, by their own action, their shackles broken.

Then came cries of, "A speech," "a speech."

"The time for speech-making is past," spoke COIN. "It is now every man to his post to do his duty. You have the proud distinction of living at an age when civilization is about to make its last stand upon this earth. An evil spirit will talk to you through deceitful tongues. Its bane is wealth to lure you to a base ambition. Life is but a breath; let it go out in an ambition that rises to a higher purpose, that linked in a chain of lives may lead to the permanent happiness of the human race."

He paused a moment and then continued, "Without freedom life is not worth the living. If you are not degenerate sons of noble sires, swear!—swear!" and the little speaker emphasized the last word, and as he did so unconsciously raised his right hand, and then as if the subject had the same possession of others, instantly every-

right hand in the room was raised and all were standing except most of the money-lenders and bankers present. It was a solemn and stirring scene. It was now nine o'clock at night and supper had been forgotten, everything had been forgotten except the subject under discussion. COIN continued as his eyes swept over this group of stern, earnest and patriotic men—"swear, that your ruling ambition in life will be to restore this government to the position it was intended to occupy by its founders and that you will submerge personal, selfish interest to the common welfare."

It was with raised hands, bowed heads, a strong determination and firm hearts that this oath was responded to by "I do," "we do," "I swear," "we swear," and a moment later the meeting had adjourned.

THE END.

APPENDIX.

After the reception was over COIN was asked what he thought of the "unrestricted coinage bill" of Senator Jones of Arkansas. His reply was:

"It is another makeshift. The people should demand the entire reversal of all legislation since 1872 and tolerate nothing short of that. They also want a President and Administration in hearty sympathy with the people and the policy to be carried out. Take no promises and rely on no politician who claims recent conversion to the cause of the people. Elect only men whose lives are a testimonial to the sincerity of their purpose.

"A man who wants office for the sake of the office, is unfit to be entrusted with the welfare of a Nation. We must elect men with practical, business ability, whose ambition is the promotion of civilization, and not men whose aim is personal and class interests."

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A TALE OF TWO NATIONS

AS

REVIEWED BY THE CHICAGO TIMES

It is a year of many publications, and among these are not a few bearing on the present financial situation, but heretofore has appeared no work at the same time fascinating as a novel and attractive to the student of affairs. The "Tale of Two Nations" fulfills both conditions. It is a forceful novelty in new literature. The already widely known author, W. H. Harvey, has made a departure of a striking character, and one not unlikely to have widespread results.

The scene of this remarkable story is laid chiefly in Washington, and the characters are, in numerous instances, people well known in actual life and factors in the affairs of the nation. There is a trenching upon the divinity supposed to hedge the money and political kings and a laying bare of real relations. No one can mistake the applications made, and no one can misunderstand the logical conclusions reached.

The story is that of a gigantic conspiracy, international in scope, conducted with vast resources, indomitable purpose, and a daring and finesse resulting in the demonetization of silver in the United States, and continued still to compass ends toward which the destruction of the people's money was but an initial step. The central figure, the brilliant, unscrupulous, but

fascinating plotter of the story, is the representative of a great foreign banking-house, the identity of which will be easily recognized. The hero is a Nebraska congressman. It is a queer combination which is formed all around, but the reader is made somehow to feel that it is the correct one. One feels that a true story is being related despite the striking character of the incidents, and the interest intensifies with each succeeding chapter.

As a love story the original volume must take a rank of its own. Its lesson in no wise interferes with its charming romance. It occupies a field in which were infinite possibilities and is readable to the school girl as well as to the statesman. The plot is a captivating one and in the character of the heroine and of a fair Jewess who loves the arch plotter of the story, are afforded studies which are delightful in every way. The romance is something delicate and novel.

What will most strike the average well-informed man, though, is the daring innovation of introducing into the story many real people and accounts of real events, and tangling together inextricably what is certainly fact with what may be fiction. One wonders what Senator John Sherman will say or think when he reads the work; what the Missourian, George Frame, or the Coloradan, Jack Carroll will conclude, or what will be the opinion of the bumptious Governor West of Utah, or that friend of the railroads the governor of Iowa, or the ridiculous Judge Noyes and Mayor Scott, of La Porte, Ind. Apparently the author was familiar with all that occurred in the Indiana town to which its frightened officials succeeded in giving an unsavory reputation, for an account is presented of occurrences,

evidently real, not heretofore made public, and which afford what is commonly known as "mighty interesting reading." The tragedies and semi-comedies of branches of the Coxey movement are pictured tellingly.

It is this curious and original feat of mingling the incidents of real events with the thread of the novel which will, perhaps, have most effect in at once attracting public attention. The opposite of the motto *Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus* may not always be the case, but where the reader sees what he knows is absolute truth in one part, he is apt to accede it to another, and this almost reckless dealing with facts and dates and persons and things is carried on to an extent rarely seen in a novel before. For instance, there is a pathetic account of the death of Annie Lindgren in describing what had occurred in one place as a result of the scheming of some of the characters in the plot. And the real Annie Lindgren did die just as described, crushed to death in a struggle for bread at the office of the county agent in Chicago, in early January, 1894. The account of her end, with its awful lesson to the country, appeared in the Chicago daily newspapers, and upon close study it will be found that many another incident of the strange story may be as easily authenticated. Facts in relation to the passage of the bill demonetizing silver are so collated that the most ignorant of readers may recognize the great conspiracy and its effect upon the nation's welfare. Yet even through it all runs the charming love story and ever the reader's interest is kept alive and alert for the next development of the wonderful plot.

There are certain chapters of the volume which are

bound to maintain a great place in the literature of the time. It is not proposed in this review to give anything like a full outline of the story nor to in any way lessen the interest and delight of the many thousands who will inevitably read the "Tale of Two Nations," but it may at least be said that chapter 20 will engage the earnest attention of all thoughtful students of the money question, and that the passion of Rogasner and its odd contrast with his character generally will be accounted something notable as a shrewd study in fiction. So the vein of humor which at times crops out, the word painting of personalities, and the touches of power and pathos add other features of note to what is certainly one of the books of the time which has an individuality all its own.

As a summary it may be said of this work just issued that its effect is not unlikely to be felt upon the destinies of the country. It has the elements of popularity; it is of interest as a story, while at the same time it foretells great existing evils and suggests for them great remedies. As "Uncle Tom's Cabin" roused a nation to knowledge of features of human slavery and impelled millions to action at a crucial period; as Bellamy's "Looking Backward" indicated the possibilities of what might be accomplished by a real community of interest, so "A Tale of Two Nations" may arouse the people to a consideration of what it is which is making myriads suffer and impel them to action toward securing a remedy swift and sure. It is a forceful book, an original and attractive book and one which will have its impress upon the times, and of any book, by any author, this is much to say.

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